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Colorado Springs Independent

Resurgent arts centers show off their moxie 22

By Edie Adelstein

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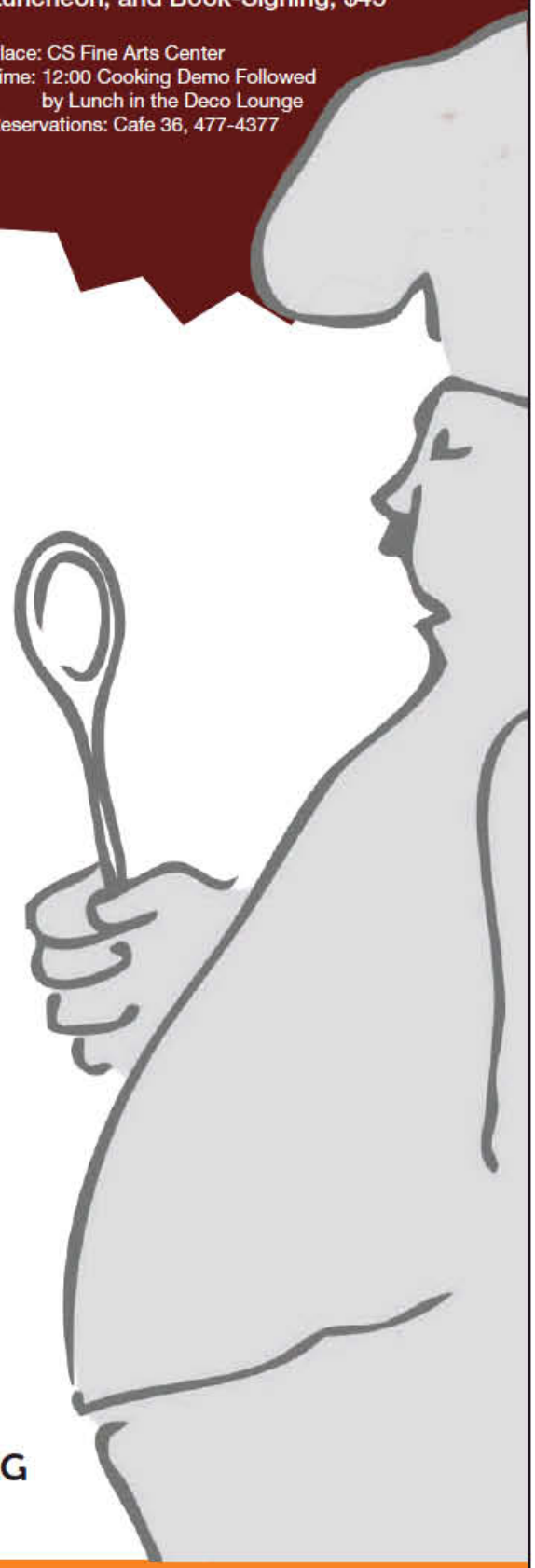

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Antlers Hilton, Audrey Landress

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Cheyenne Mountain Country Club, Matthew Richardson

Cheyenne Mountain Resort, Brad Usiak

Taste of the Wild Catering at Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Nathan Dirnberger

The Cliff House at Pikes Peak, Scott Savage

The Club at Flying Horse, Ketil Larsen & Eric Hill

Craftwood Inn, Brother Luck

Garden of the Gods Gourmet, Amy Pontius & Larissa Warner

The House Chef of Colorado Springs, Robert Brunet

Jake & Telly's Greek Taverna, Ott Mathias

Kitchen Essentials, Christine Miller

Liberty Heights Retirement Community, Jose Mota

MacKenzie's Chop House, Pete Moreno & Reid Martin

The Margarita at PineCreek, Eric Viedt

Marigold Café & Bakery, Jose Aguilar

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A mug full of snow helps the medicine go down.

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Every answer can't be local

Boosterism has a long — and not particularly distinguished — history in Colorado. In 1906, the Denver-based Colorado Manufacturers' Association handed out nicely designed bronze tokens featuring the state seal on the face and "Keep Your Money in Colorado" on the reverse.

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Film:

Frumpy old men

Fun fact: Alan Arkin, Al Pacino and Christopher Walken never have been in a movie together. Even now. *Stand Up Guys* doesn't count; it's more like a one-act play, photographed for posterity with notes still scribbled in its margins.

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Reverb

While Colorado Springs has found its way into hundreds of *Christianity Today* articles, the Black Sheep has never had the honor. At least not until two weeks ago, when Father John Misty's show at the local all-ages venue was the subject of a 1,200-word critique.

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On the Cover
Design by art director Kathy Conarro.

UpComing

Just one more week until a completely revamped **Bites 2013** drops into your hungry little hands.

Straight from our foodies on the street to your grumbling stomachs, Bites' got all the eats (and drinks) you're gonna want to try at least once, and then probably go back for more.

Bon appétit! An nào! yISop!

This week's featured offer!

Avenue Hotel Bed & Breakfast
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You ARE A Winner!

***Dreamgirls* at the Pikes Peak Center**
A pair of tickets
Rand Samuels

Pikes Peak Derby Dames at the City Auditorium
A 4-pack of tickets
Cari Garlin

Be A Winner!

Family Style
Phineas and Ferb bring their wild antics to the Pikes Peak Center ... and Buffalo Wild Wings on North Academy Boulevard wants you to get Wild with a $25 gift certificate for your next visit! Enter at csindy.com to win in this week's IndyBlast!

SliceOfLife

Matthew Schniper

The Cheyenne Mountain Zoo's new $13.5 million Encounter Africa exhibit opens for a preview, March 15. The elephants are doing preparatory 'dusting.'

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Letters

Editor, 235 S. Nevada Ave., CS, CO 80903 • e-mail: letters@csindy.com

If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

Inaugural ideas

I just heard someone call President Obama's inaugural speech "unabashedly liberal." The ideas that women should receive equal pay, that gay men and women should be allowed the same protections by law as heterosexuals, and that renewable energy is the only way forward on a warming planet shouldn't be considered liberal or conservative ideas. They are the right ideas. Politics be damned.

— Thomas Nelson
Colorado Springs

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'In an era where professional sports are driven by dollars and statistics, significant numbers of Americans see a divine hand at play.'

— Robert Jones, CEO of the Public Religion Research Institute, on a survey showing that 27 percent of Americans believe God cares about the outcome of sports games.

Ballot-box rule

I have a real concern about the abundance of weapons in our society, especially military-style assault rifles and weapons with high ammunition capacity. These guns are neither meant for hunting nor for self-defense, their only purpose is to kill many people in a short amount of time.

No matter how responsible the gun owner, what does anybody want to do with so dangerous an instrument? It does not make a suitable trophy, souvenir or status symbol, and I doubt that it would be welcome at the new local shooting range. The owner has to constantly keep it under lock and key, so that no family member, friend or burglar can get to it and use it in a deranged moment to commit a massacre.

I do understand the meaning of the Second Amendment and the history which spawned it. However, for almost two and a half centuries, the people of the United States have chosen their leaders through the ballot box. If the election does not turn out to one's liking, there is always a chance to reverse it in two or four years. I shudder at the thought of a Syria-style uprising for which some owners might envision these weapons. This is not the way of the United States of America and it is contrary to its Constitution.

— Gertrud Nuhn
Colorado Springs

A gun education

This reply is to Christy Le Lait and her "Bad shots" letter (Jan. 23) in the *Indy*. With all due respect to this lady whose son serves proudly in the military, she needs to get educated.

First: She should read *More Guns, Less Crime*, third edition, by John Lott. He has analyzed data from every U.S. county to show that when there are more guns, there is less violent crime. Violent crime is *down* in this country! The FBI statistics on violent crime also support this point. Cars and sharpened Phillips-head screwdrivers kill more in this country each year than guns, but over 2 million Americans were protected by the use of guns for self-defense!

Second: She is wrong on public polling. The majority *supports* the Second Amendment and the right to have and bear arms.

Third: She is wrong on safety: Ownership rates can't be equated with violence, and for her ease of mind, we are *not* the most dangerous country in the world. Honduras has only 6.2 guns per 100 people, but has the most homicides per gun. In that small Central American republic there are 68.43 killings by gun per 100,000 people, compared to just 2.98 per 100,000 in the U.S.

Fourth: Concealed-handgun permit owners have gone through extensive background checks by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation!

Fifth: She doesn't know what an assault weapon is. This is a "scare" term by the Brady group. No legal definition exists as to what this is.

Sixth: High-capacity magazines — we *need* them to fight off the two, three and four who home-invade or attack. Criminals don't follow the laws, and a ban on them will only endanger Americans who follow the law!

If she wants to really educate herself, I am here to train her about guns and their proper usage!

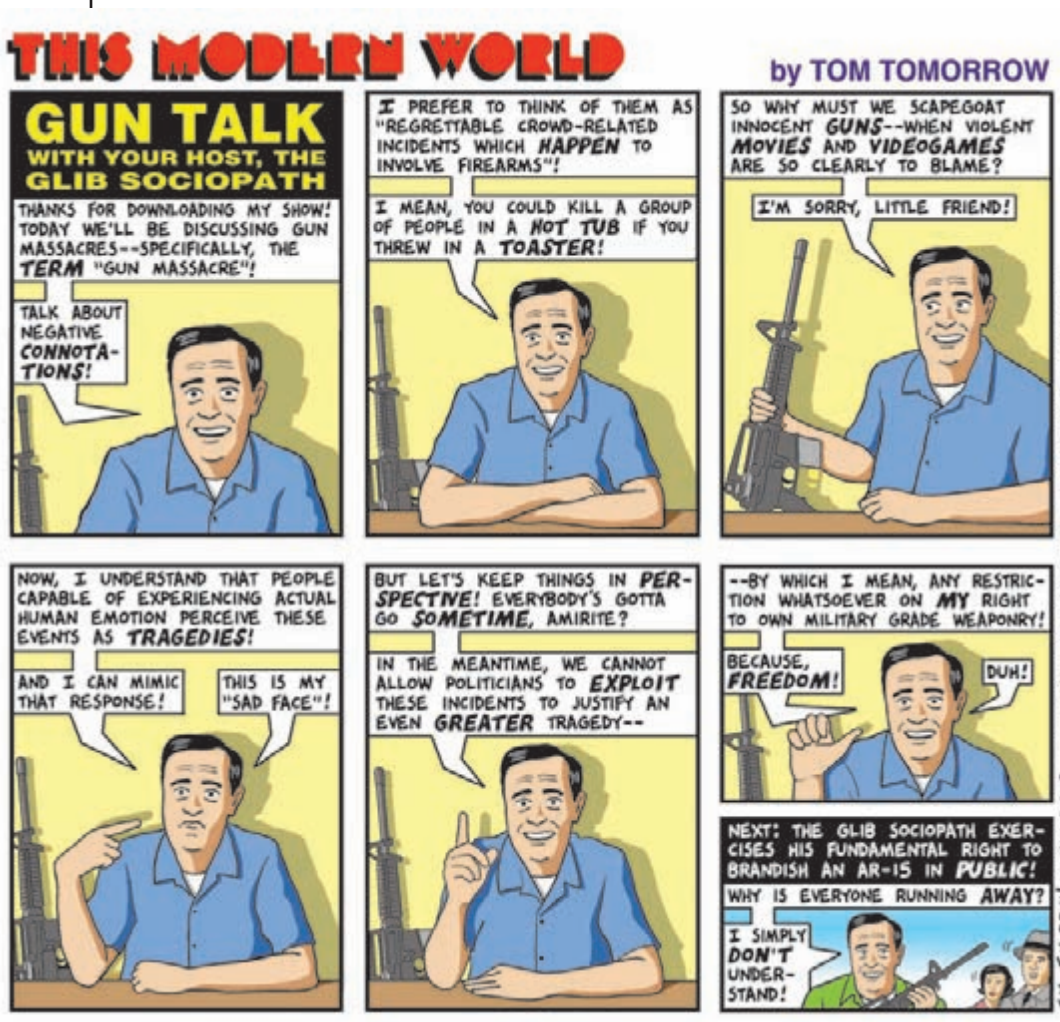
— Helen Sabin
Executive director of training, Academy Firearms Instruction
Colorado Springs

Taking advantage

Regarding Christy Le Lait's "Bad shot" letter (Jan. 23): That is what would be expected of progressives, mainstream media and politicians who take advantage of mass killings to get a sound bite to advance their careers, while picking and choosing which parts of the Constitution they want to follow. But these same people/sources will not report the thousands of lives that are saved each year by people who had a gun and were able to protect themselves, their families or someone else.

So you know where I'm coming from: I have not shot a gun or been hunting in over 30 years. I do not have a concealed carry permit and have no plans to apply for one. There is a lot of violence in movies and video games that I do not like, but I will support the First Amendment right of the producers of those movies and games.

Guns have a long history in our country and are the reason that we gained freedom from a tyrannical


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
GUN TALK
WITH YOUR HOST, THE GLIB SOCIOPATH
THANKS FOR DOWNLOADING MY SHOW! TODAY WE'LL BE DISCUSSING GUN MASSACRES--SPECIFICALLY, THE TERM "GUN MASSACRE"!
TALK ABOUT NEGATIVE CONNOTATIONS!
I PREFER TO THINK OF THEM AS "REGRETTABLE CROWD-RELATED INCIDENTS WHICH HAPPEN TO INVOLVE FIREARMS"!
I MEAN, YOU COULD KILL A GROUP OF PEOPLE IN A HOT TUB IF YOU THREW IN A TOASTER!
SO WHY MUST WE SCAPEGOAT INNOCENT GUNS--WHEN VIOLENT MOVIES AND VIDEOGAMES ARE SO CLEARLY TO BLAME?
I'M SORRY, LITTLE FRIEND!
NOW, I UNDERSTAND THAT PEOPLE CAPABLE OF EXPERIENCING ACTUAL HUMAN EMOTION PERCEIVE THESE EVENTS AS TRAGEDIES!
AND I CAN MIMIC THAT RESPONSE!
THIS IS MY "SAD FACE"!
BUT LET'S KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE! EVERYBODY'S GOTTA GO SOMETIME, AMIRITE?
IN THE MEANTIME, WE CANNOT ALLOW POLITICIANS TO EXPLOIT THESE INCIDENTS TO JUSTIFY AN EVEN GREATER TRAGEDY--
--BY WHICH I MEAN, ANY RESTRICTION WHATSOEVER ON MY RIGHT TO OWN MILITARY GRADE WEAPONRY!
BECAUSE, FREEDOM!
DUH!
NEXT: THE GLIB SOCIOPATH EXERCISES HIS FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO BRANDISH AN AR-15 IN PUBLIC!
WHY IS EVERYONE RUNNING AWAY?
I SIMPLY DON'T UNDERSTAND!
TOM TOMORROW ©1-30-2013 ...www.thismodernworld.com ...twitter.com/tomtomorrow

LongStoryShort

Art collectors love to tell you how easy it is to accrue art. You don't need a lot of money they say. Start small, buy what you love, they say.

You know, they're right.

So many times, when the term "art collection" comes to mind, we think big: big pieces, big names, bigger price tags. Or we think obscure, which is also expensive.

But really, it's our idea of art collecting that needs to be redefined. The practice itself is much broader than we often give it credit for.

For instance, money (or lack thereof) hasn't held back this newspaperwoman from purchasing numerous prints and one small painting. And a late start hasn't stopped her father from recently setting up his own collection: bigger paintings and prints that he simply bought because he loved them. No one would pooh-pooh the guy for that — he's supporting artists and galleries.

Regardless, when we talk about redefining old, ingrained ideas, even about an arts organization or a scene at large, it's easy to resist and stick to old patterns. Hard times only tend to reinforce those ruts. But three local arts centers are breaking out and starting afresh. New blood, literally and metaphorically, is transforming Cottonwood Center for the Arts, the Business of Art Center and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, the subjects of our cover story starting on p. 22.

— Edie Adelstein

Letters

government. The Second Amendment wasn't about hunting. It was written so we could protect ourselves from another tyrannical government.

Look at states and cities with strict gun controls and you will find high crime rates. A Dec. 27 story in *The Sacramento Bee* reported that gun sales in California had increased for several years, but gun-related crimes and injuries had decreased. There have been similar nationwide FBI reports.

The gun sales that scare Ms. Le Lait are to law-abiding citizens who are having background checks and are exercising their constitutional right to be able to protect themselves and their families. Law-abiding citizens are the only ones who will suffer from gun restrictions and will pay a high price in robberies, deaths, etc., against them.

— Bill Moss
Colorado Springs

Divisive language

America welcomes the spirit and patriotism of Dennis Specht ("Defending to the death," Letters, Jan. 16), and his vow to defend family and guns is heart-wrenching. But the way he explains his Americanism demeans and offends those who hold dissenting opinions about guns.

For one who would "defend to the death," I find his lack of faith in America incongruous, dour and wrong. I find his calling those who disagree with him "sheep" to be appalling. I find the main vein of his discourse typifies the wrongheaded and needless defense of the Second Amendment and, sadly, the kind of remarks that divide our nation.

I remind those who care that gun quarrels are a slice of our culture, a big slice. It's the John Wayne in us, or more up-to-date, Clint Eastwood's big, big-gun endearment.

Mr. Specht tells us not to forget our history. I agree, and my memory just can't come up with any Hitlers, Stalins or any other monsters that he fears are heading our way. Just saying.

— Phil Kenny
Colorado Springs

Don't rezone the Ranch

Banning Lewis Ranch is zoned for residential development in accordance with a Master Plan thoughtfully developed by our past city administrators and community. Ultra Petroleum bought 18,000 acres (28 square miles) of BLR knowing this, and is currently suing our city to have it rezoned as agricultural so they can drill and frack for oil.

Scientists have documented evidence that fracking pollutes our soil, water, and air.

Let's keep this land zoned residential and together, as a community, follow and improve upon the Master Plan by developing a sustainable community. Our city's environmental sustainability department and planning committee could oversee the implementation of this vision. We could build green homes, community gardens, urban landscapes, hiking trails, dog parks, and bike paths for ourselves and our Olympic Training Center athletes to ride on.

Economically we will benefit by employing homebuilders, solar manufacturers, farmers, urban gardeners, and all of our small businesses. Our city will collect tax revenues. Our homeless community could help out, too. Our tourism industry would boom as people fly in from all over the world to see a model sustainable community. Our hotels would be full. Water from the Southern Delivery System will be used as it was meant to be — for residential development. And we could put it to good use creating streams, creeks, nature preserves, lakes, fishing ponds, golf courses, and water parks on this land for the public to enjoy.

I would like to have, and respectfully request, a dialogue with the Colorado Springs City Council members about this matter in the form of a public meeting. What's their vision? What do other people think about this matter?

— Scott Olson
Colorado Springs

Our green military?

I have been stumped for years by the ease with which the military has been able to dupe mainstream environmental groups into accepting them as responsible partners in the movement. A recent visit to Fort Carson's active construction project at Wilderness Road brought the issue into sharp focus for me.

A large suburb of the main base is growing by leaps and bounds several miles from the main post. Lots of the roads and buildings already exist to house an existing population. Much more expansion is under way to accommodate the Combat Aviation Brigade.

All the new buildings are capped by solar panels. Lots of asphalt and concrete and what little landscape there is, is xeriscaped. So it's all "green," right?

Not so fast. The Army will soon be sending in 600 ground vehicles for the new brigade along with 10 dozen fuel-guzzling helicopters and eventually a fleet of killer drone aircraft. Suddenly the carbon footprint deepens. Then there will be the hundreds, if not thousands, of private vehicles that will commute a greater distance because of the development's remote location. They will also have to travel farther for off-post activities.

In the short run the carbon footprint is getting a big boost from the huge fleet of earth-moving equipment that is skinning off and leveling the land for new buildings and a runway extension.

If all that doesn't give an environmentalist pause, what about what happens when the military switches from practice to active mode? Suddenly there will be death and destruction visited upon some foreign land. I would argue that that is anything but green.

The original slogan of the green movement was "Think Globally, Act Locally." We need to do both in the current situation.

— Bill Sulzman
Colorado Springs

No offense

To the person offended by a columnist being called "Ranger Rich" ("A real Ranger objects," Letters, Jan. 16), three words:

You're kidding, right?

And, if you really want to get all huffy, you might also tell the National Wildlife Federation to change the name of the little raccoon symbol for their *Big Backyard* publication.

— Becki Davis
(who once had a dog named Ranger)
Colorado Springs

Bad advice

Dear Ms. Alkon: I just finished reading your reply to "Confused" in your "Advice Goddess" column subtitled, "New kid on the bloc" (Jan. 16).

I found your descriptors of the Eastern European population extremely offensive. Examples being: "Hop a 16-hour transatlantic flight ... transfer to a local mule cart ... turn left at the second group of goats in the road."

If this is supposed to be humor, it is at the expense of a culture that you appear to know very little about. In 2012 I traveled a month throughout the countries of Romania, Hungary and Bulgaria. True, due to Communist rule, wars, horrible dictators (e.g., Nicolae Ceausescu), etc. these countries are not as developed as the United States and Western European countries. But their outstanding literature, music, art, architecture and most of all, their fortitude put many countries to shame.

I take offense to how you negatively generalized about a very proud culture which has made amazing progress since "escaping" from communism. I would hope my Eastern European acquaintances and folks of Eastern European heritage will not have to read the spiteful comments which you have written.

Also, I sympathize for the disrespect you showed to "Confused," who has dedicated three years of her life working in Eastern Europe as a Peace Corps volunteer. You showed zero consideration for what effect this would have on one's personality and perception of relationships.

I noted that you are the author of a book titled *I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle to Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society*. I assume from this title, after reflecting on your words in "New kid on the bloc," that you would regret being "the rude one."

— Joy Miller
Divide

Give! thanks

A *big* thank-you to the *Colorado Springs Independent* staff for their support of our organization's participation in the recently concluded *Give!* campaign.

From the very start, the *Indy* staff and the other partner agencies were enthusiastic, most encouraging, very informative, caring, supportive and generous with their time and resources. It was a joy and a blessing to become a part of the *Indy* family.

It was also a blessing to meet and to get to know all of the nonprofit organizations who also participated in the two-month-long event. The Pikes Peak region as a whole will benefit from this fundraising adventure.

From the Native Americans we serve, I say: A ho, Ah Yehi, Yakoke, Pelomiya, Wopila Tanka. Thank you to the staff members, foundations and donors involved with the *Give!* campaign.

— Urban Turzi (Three Eagles)
Executive Director
One Nation Walking Together
Colorado Springs

GetInvolved

Winter wonder

Attend this party with free food from McCabe's Tavern (for the first 50 guests arriving between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.), live music and discounted gear to raise money for UpaDowna, a local nonprofit that offers outdoor excursions for kids, individuals and families.

Winter Gear Sale and UpaDowna Fundraiser
Saturday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m.
Mountain Equipment Recyclers, 1024 S. Tejon St.
Contact: 210-6427, merecyclers.com

On the fly

Help this local organization that provides food, counseling, support groups and more for military members, both active and veteran. SOAR currently needs office assistance and help with other services.

Spirit of America Response (SOAR) volunteer call
Contact: 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org

Break free

Volunteer with this local chapter, which is currently working on a clean water project in Bolivia. Go online for more information and a meeting schedule.

Engineers Without Borders volunteer call
Contact: peisele@comcast.net, ewbcos.org

For more civic and volunteer opportunities, see Listings on p. 44.

CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

Every answer can't be local

Remember the 2011 "Live it up!" fiasco?

The Colorado Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau hired a Castle Rock-based firm, Stone Mantel, to lead an effort to re-brand our sluggish little city. Seven months and $111,000 later, the sluggish result was unveiled: "Live it up!" accompanied by a trite mountain logo. The near-unanimous community reaction: thumbs-down.

The CVB endured a well-deserved barrage of criticism. Many critics were particularly offended by the contractor. Outsiders from Castle Rock? How could they possibly understand our city? Aren't there lots of local companies that could have done a better job for less money? Shouldn't we keep our money in town, and support our friends and neighbors?

Such boosterism has a long — and not particularly distinguished — history in Colorado. In 1906, the Denver-based Colorado Manufacturers' Association handed out nicely designed bronze tokens featuring the state seal on the face and "Keep Your Money in Colorado" on the reverse. Contemporary accounts make it clear that Denver manufacturers and merchants were reacting to a slowing, fiercely competitive economy. In such times, price trumps patriotism — unless you can persuade customers that their self-interest is best-served by paying your higher prices.

The CVB was not chastened by the 'Live it up!' ordeal.

Eighty years later, state Sen. **Ray Powers,** R-Colorado Springs, sponsored an "Always Buy Colorado" resolution, which was cheerfully whooped through the Legislature. A logo was created for the campaign, hundreds of businesses signed up ... and not much happened.

In 2008, as **Leslie Jorgensen** reported in the *Colorado Statesman*, Rep. **Dorothy Butcher,** D-Pueblo, sponsored a bill requiring the state government to buy only U.S. flags made America. That bill passed, though opposed by local GOP meanies **Kent Lambert**, **Douglas Bruce**, **Dave Schultheis** and **Bill Cadman**.

But for unashamed protectionism, nothing beats the "Always Buy Colorado Cannabis" campaign. Created by the Cannabis Therapy Institute in 2009, it was designed to combat allegations that dispensaries were secretly dealing with illicit growers, and thereby enriching murderous Mexican cartels. Caregivers were asked to sign a buy-local pledge: "As a responsible caregiver, I pledge to never knowingly purchase medical cannabis from Mexican drug cartels or any other enterprise that is not legally allowed to supply medicinal cannabis in Colorado. I pledge to Always Buy Colorado Cannabis whenever possible."

That spirit lives on — and thanks to Amendment 64, it's embedded in the Colorado constitution. You can grow, buy, sell and transport cannabis — but you can't import it.

Which brings us back to the CVB. Far from being chastened by the Live it up! ordeal — which ended with local firm Fixer Creative Co. nicely overhauling the logo design — the bureau signed an $800,000 contract in 2012 with a Corpus Christi, Texas firm, USDM.net, to revive and refocus the CVB's Internet marketing. USDM describes itself modestly as "... the premier technology provider for the U.S. Travel Industry and the destinations it serves." The CVB essentially handed over its entire Internet marketing function to USDM.

USDM bought and placed advertising, and worked on site redesign, search-engine optimization and links to the city's website. "We didn't want traffic that came to the site and left right away," says CVB marketing director **Amy Long**, "and our SEO [search-engine optimization] needed a lot of work — we had dropped way down."

A year later, the results are in, and it's hard to fault the CVB's choice of vendors. Traffic to the site has increased by an astonishing 91 percent over 2011, supporting local tourism in a time of unanticipated disaster.

"We're sensitive to the buy-local component [of our mission]," says Long, "but we have an obligation to maximize ROI [return on investment] on our budget, and bring visitors to Colorado Springs."

Such are the efficiencies of a national marketplace, which marijuana consumers have yet to experience. But who knows, perhaps legalization will spread, and one day we'll be buying fine imported weed from Corpus Christi at $10 an ounce.

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

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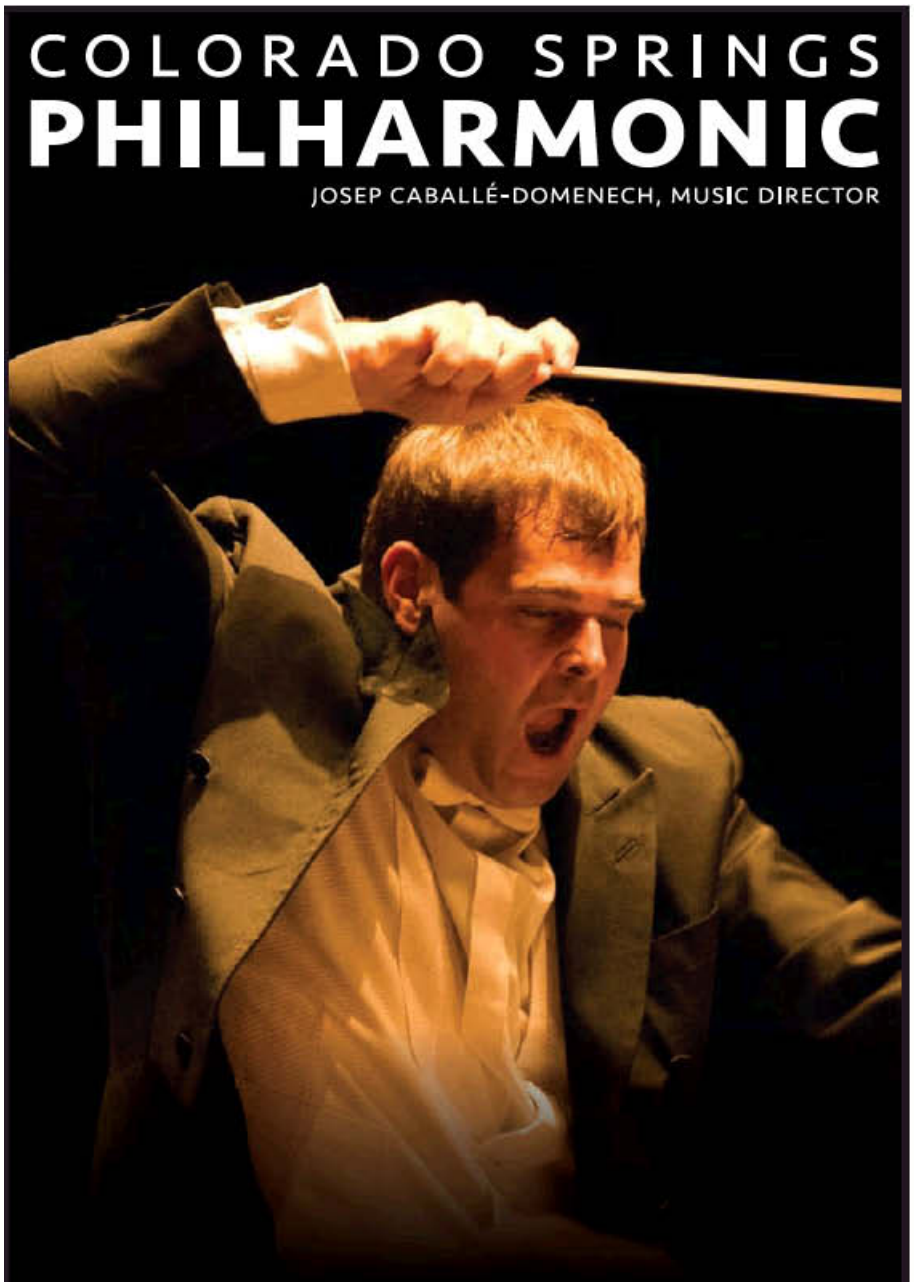

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StreetSmarts

A somewhat blank canvas

Colorado Springs seems to have an on-again, off-again relationship with its arts community. But many seem to agree that the city could do more to expand local opportunities for artistic engagement.

Don Decker from the ***northeast side*** is a ***business analyst***

When I say "art in Colorado Springs," what comes to mind? I like the *Art on the Streets* in the downtown area. It really helps promote appreciation for art and for the freedom to express thoughts and emotions.

What do you like most about it? After a stressful day it's a good escape; it's unique and mysterious.

What do you consider to be art? I have a very broad definition, and art is everywhere. There's natural art, artificially created art, abstract art ... each snowflake is art.

Do you go to galleries to see art? Not as often as I'd like to, but Colorado Springs really offers a lot. There's a lot of talent here, and the city could do more to promote that. The recent political climate seems to have detracted from our ability to promote local talents.

Wendy Fairchild from ***Pueblo*** works in ***administration***

What do you think about the Colorado Springs art scene? It seems like it's becoming more dynamic and attractive, especially downtown, on the west side and at the Fine Arts Center.

Do you come up very often for exhibitions? Well, mostly I go to Denver, Santa Fe and Taos.

What type of show would draw you specifically to Colorado Springs? Historic, regional art from the early 1900s. And I love American art from the Arts and Crafts period.

What would it take for the Springs to rival Denver or Santa Fe as an arts destination? More diversity and more art of the people, like the folk art and Chicano art we have in Pueblo. And Pueblo has a good underground arts movement. Colorado Springs still seems less diverse and less tolerant, even in the downtown area.

Mad Maxx from the ***northwest side*** works for ***the government***

What's your favorite part of the arts scene in town? I like the Modbo and S.P.Q.R., but mostly I use the Internet to explore art.

What's your least favorite part of the local arts scene? It seems really tight-knit, too closed. I'm an artist, and there's lots of talent in town, but I don't feel like I belong. But I'm kind of a loner, anyway.

Can you imagine this ever becoming known as an art town? Well, anyplace can become that, but the community has to want to make it happen.

So how does an individual artist become successful? You have to sell yourself to sell your art, and most of all you need to spark curiosity.

— Kendall Kullman

LowDown

By Jim Hightower

Mortgage crime yields tax break

Can't those constantly complaining consumer advocates ever be satisfied? The government extracted a $10 billion payment from a dozen major mortgage lenders as punishment for their unlawful eviction of homeowners, yet consumer groups say it's not nearly enough. Come on — $10 billion is real money!

Well, yes — for you and me. But for Bank of America, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan and the eight others, $10 billion is not even .001 percent of their revenues for one year. And it's certainly not enough to make these 12 scofflaws go straight.

Moreover, as pointed out by alert consumer watchdogs at U.S. Public Interest Research Group, there's another tricky hickey on this deal: The IRS is allowing the banks to treat the payouts to wronged homeowners as a cost of doing business, meaning the banksters will simply deduct most of the $10 billion from their corporate tax payments. Yes, that means that we taxpayers are being made to subsidize their "punishment."

We taxpayers are being made to subsidize their 'punishment.'

Angry about this coddling of criminals, Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley said, "The government is abetting the [bankers'] behavior by not preventing the deduction," adding "That's unfair."

Well, yes — as well as morally despicable and scummy. Also, unnecessary. Federal agencies have the authority to stipulate in these settlement deals that the price of bad corporate behavior includes the violators having to foot the entire penalty, with no portion of it passed to taxpayers.

Having that authority, government has a moral responsibility to use it — both to protect our public treasury and to make such legal settlements punitive enough that a corporate wrongdoer will hesitate to repeat the violation.

To see the consumer group's report on stopping these taxpayer subsidies for corporate penalties, go to uspirg.org.

Jim Hightower is the best-selling author of **Swim Against the Current: Even a Dead Fish Can Go With the Flow***, on sale now from Wiley Publishing. For more information, visit jimhightower.com.*

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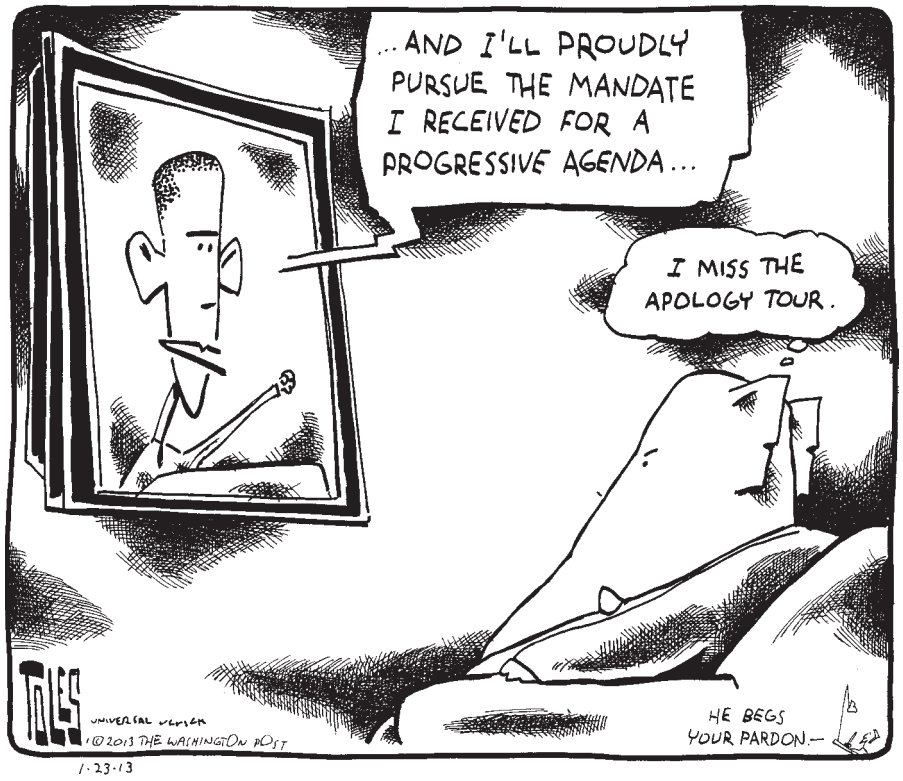
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Independent

BetweentheLines

By Ralph Routon

COS flies through turbulence

Mark Earle flew out of town last Friday, and he took Frontier Airlines. You might wonder why the Colorado Springs airport's aviation director would consider Frontier, which just made Earle's job a lot harder. Fact is, Earle hadn't been expecting Frontier to shut down most of its Springs service, including all flights to and from Denver, with barely a month's notice.

Earle had feared that Frontier's nonstop flights from Colorado Springs to Orlando and San Diego might be cut back or eliminated (as they were). But the last thing he anticipated was for Frontier to abandon its productive service between Colorado Springs and Denver, which has helped thousands of local travelers connect through Frontier's hub at Denver International Airport.

"Airlines will spend months, even years, on the front end deciding whether to add service or flights in a city," Earle says. "But when they're deciding to pull out, they might do that immediately."

The problem, as Earle explains, is that Frontier wasn't in control of all its planes. After Republic Airways rescued Frontier from bankruptcy in 2009, Republic allowed Frontier to use its regional jets for some routes, including the short Springs-Denver flights. But when Republic decided to assign those planes elsewhere, Frontier had no inventory to shuffle.

You won't see Southwest swooping in to add the Springs.

That was the tough part for Earle: The decision to cut the Springs-Denver flights had nothing to do with their viability.

"You have to measure connecting flights differently," Earle says. "It's all about what they call 'system contribution,' which means Frontier's flights from here to Denver have been measured by how much they contributed to helping profitability of other flights out of Denver. That was working well for them."

Frontier began its service here six years ago with turboprop planes, slower but highly efficient for such a short flight. Republic took over, sold the turboprops and replaced them with regional jets. That was fine — until now.

Colorado Springs is left in scramble mode. United Airlines, which as of March 2 will have a monopoly on the Springs-Denver route, might add some flights or provide bigger planes to grab what had been Frontier's business. Other airlines serving Colorado Springs also stand to gain, because savvy travelers will seek other connections — such as American through Dallas, or Delta through Atlanta and Salt Lake City.

The sad part is that our airport has been investing in visible improvements, from enlarging the security area to creating a more pleasing gateway atmosphere for incoming passengers and turning the main terminal's bar-restaurant into an offshoot of the Springs' own Bristol Brewing Co.

Even before this latest news, Earle had been busy trying to cultivate more choices for local travelers. But one obstacle has been the three-headed monster to our north; Denver, says Earle, is the only U.S. airport with three airlines providing service to a full range of destinations (United, Frontier and Southwest). That's been good for fares out of Denver, and Earle says it's had a positive effect here because of the proximity. But can three airlines survive at that level in the long term? Nobody knows.

We shouldn't expect major changes because of Frontier's news, Earle says. You won't see Southwest swooping in to add Colorado Springs. But Earle says the same day as Frontier's announcement, he took calls from two other carriers about possibilities.

Earle also refuses to shame Springs travelers for flying out of Denver. He simply hopes people realize the subtle differences: Parking is far cheaper in the Springs, the drive is obviously shorter, and getting through security to your gate is much faster. Plus, the fares often aren't that much higher here.

"I have a lot of people tell me they'd rather go out of the Springs unless the fare difference is more than $150," Earle says. "Some even say $200. ... The bottom line is, if you look at other markets and airports our size, our pricing is excellent by comparison. Our approach is simply that if we have a good service here, people should try to support it, or the airlines won't keep it."

In the end, Earle admits, one factor will influence our airport's future more than any other — the economy.

"And not just the economy in general," Earle says. "It's all about Colorado Springs. As the local economy goes, so goes the airport."

— routon@csindy.com

NationalView

By Elyn R. Saks

Successful and schizophrenic

Thirty years ago, I was given a diagnosis of schizophrenia. My prognosis was "grave": I would never live independently, hold a job, find a loving partner, get married. My home would be a board-and-care facility, my days spent watching TV in a day room with other people debilitated by mental illness. I would work at menial jobs when my symptoms were quiet. After my last psychiatric hospitalization at age 28, I was encouraged by a doctor to work as a cashier making change. If I could handle that, I was told, we would reassess my ability to hold a more demanding position, perhaps even something full-time.

Not everyone will be a Nobel laureate like John Nash in **A Beautiful Mind,** *'but seeds of creative thinking may sometimes be found in mental illness.'*

Then I made a decision. I would write the narrative of my life. Today I am a chaired professor at the University of Southern California Gould School of Law. I have an adjunct appointment in the department of psychiatry at the medical school of the University of California, San Diego, and am on the faculty of the New Center for Psychoanalysis. The MacArthur Foundation gave me a genius grant.

Although I fought my diagnosis for many years, I came to accept that I have schizophrenia and will be in treatment the rest of my life. Indeed, excellent psychoanalytic treatment and medication have been critical to my success. What I refused to accept was my prognosis.

Conventional psychiatric thinking and its diagnostic categories say that people like me don't exist. Either I don't have schizophrenia (please tell that to the delusions crowding my mind), or I couldn't have accomplished what I have (please tell that to USC's committee on faculty affairs). But I do, and I have. And I have undertaken research with colleagues at USC and UCLA to show that I am not alone. There are others with schizophrenia and such active symptoms as delusions and hallucinations who have significant academic and professional achievements.

Developing techniques

Over the last few years, my colleagues, including Stephen Marder, Alison Hamilton and Amy Cohen, and I have gathered 20 research subjects with high-functioning schizophrenia in Los Angeles. They suffered from symptoms like mild delusions or hallucinatory behavior. Their average age was 40. Half were male, half female, and more than half were minorities. All had high school diplomas, and a majority either had or were working toward college or graduate degrees. They were graduate students, managers, technicians and professionals, including a doctor, lawyer, psychologist and chief executive of a nonprofit group.

At the same time, most were unmarried and childless, which is consistent with their diagnoses. (My colleagues and I intend to do another study on people with schizophrenia who are high-functioning in terms of their relationships. Marrying in my mid-40s — the best thing that ever happened to me — was against all odds, after almost 18 years of not dating.) More than three-quarters had been hospitalized between two and five times because of their illness, while three had never been admitted.

How had these people with schizophrenia managed to succeed in their studies and at such high-level jobs? We learned that, in addition to medication and therapy, all the participants had developed techniques to keep their schizophrenia at bay. For some, these techniques were cognitive. An educator with a master's degree said he had learned to face his hallucinations and ask, "What's the evidence for that? Or is it just a perception problem?" Another participant said, "I hear derogatory voices all the time. ... You just gotta blow them off."

Part of vigilance about symptoms was "identifying triggers" to "prevent a fuller blown experience of symptoms," said a participant who works as a coordinator at a nonprofit group. For instance, if being with people in close quarters for too long can set off symptoms, build in some alone time when you travel with friends.

Other techniques that our participants cited included controlling sensory inputs. For some, this meant keeping their living space simple (bare walls, no TV, only quiet music), while for others, it meant distracting music. "I'll listen to loud music if I don't want to hear things," said a participant who is a certified nurse's assistant. Still others mentioned exercise, a healthy diet, avoiding alcohol and getting enough sleep. A belief in God and prayer also played a role for some.

One of the most frequently mentioned techniques that helped our research participants manage their symptoms was work. "Work has been an important part of who I am," said an educator in our group. "When you become useful to an organization and feel respected in that organization, there's a certain value in belonging there." This person works on the weekends too because of "the distraction factor." In other words, by engaging in work, the crazy stuff often recedes to the sidelines.

Dispelling the pessimism

Personally, I reach out to my doctors, friends and family whenever I start slipping, and I get great support from them. I eat comfort food (for me, cereal) and listen to quiet music. I minimize all stimulation. Usually these techniques, combined with more medication and therapy, will make the symptoms pass. But the work piece — using my mind — is my best defense. It keeps me focused, it keeps the demons at bay. My mind, I have come to say, is both my worst enemy and my best friend.

That is why it is so distressing when doctors tell their patients not to expect or pursue fulfilling careers. Far too often, the conventional psychiatric approach to mental illness is to see clusters of symptoms that characterize people. Accordingly, many psychiatrists hold the view that treating symptoms with medication is treating mental illness. But this fails to take into account individuals' strengths and capabilities, leading mental health professionals to underestimate what their patients can hope to achieve in the world.

It's not just schizophrenia: This month, *The Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry* posted a study showing that a small group of people who were given diagnoses of autism, a developmental disorder, later stopped exhibiting symptoms. They seemed to have recovered — though after years of behavioral therapy and treatment. A recent *New York Times Magazine* article described a new company that hires high-functioning adults with autism, taking advantage of their unusual memory skills and attention to detail.

I don't want to sound like a Pollyanna about schizophrenia; mental illness imposes real limitations, and it's important not to romanticize it. We can't all be Nobel laureates like John Nash of the movie *A Beautiful Mind*. But the seeds of creative thinking may sometimes be found in mental illness, and people underestimate the power of the human brain to adapt and to create.

What I refused to accept was my prognosis.

An approach that looks for individual strengths, in addition to considering symptoms, could help dispel the pessimism surrounding mental illness. Finding "the wellness within the illness," as one person with schizophrenia said, should be a therapeutic goal. Doctors should urge their patients to develop relationships and engage in meaningful work. They should encourage patients to find their own repertory of techniques to manage their symptoms and aim for a quality of life as they define it. And they should provide patients with the resources — therapy, medication and support — to make these things happen.

"Every person has a unique gift or unique self to bring to the world," said one of our study's participants. She expressed the reality that those of us who have schizophrenia and other mental illnesses want what everyone wants: in the words of Sigmund Freud, to work and to love.

Elyn R. Saks is a law professor at the University of Southern California and the author of the memoir **The Center Cannot Hold: My Journey Through Madness.** *This piece originally ran in the* **New York Times.**

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Making the cash flow

The city attorney tries to find a way into Utilities' pocketbook ... which may lead to yours

By J. Adrian Stanley

In November 2009, nearly 55 percent of city voters approved Issue 300. Authored by anti-tax activist Douglas Bruce, the initiative was intended to cut off nearly all money exchanges between the city and its enterprises, or city-owned businesses.

At the time, Bruce claimed the city was using enterprise fees to pay for city needs, slyly skirting Colorado law that requires voter approval for tax increases. He noted that Colorado Springs Utilities gave the city millions each year "in lieu" of taxes, and that City Council had created an enterprise to pay for city stormwater needs, sans voter approval.

Courtesy City of Colorado Springs

In heavy rains, catchments like these near the Waldo Canyon burn scar will be hard-pressed to keep flows out of the stormwater system.

After the election, Council did away with the Stormwater Enterprise and its hated "fees," but quickly found a loophole that allowed Utilities to continue paying the city about $31 million a year.

Now, Mayor Steve Bach is seeking an even bigger loophole in Issue 300 — one that would allow Utilities to foot the bill for $687 million in needed city stormwater projects. That funding is especially crucial after the Waldo Canyon Fire, because flooding off the burn scar this spring is expected to be catastrophic.

In a recent interview with the *Independent*, City Attorney Chris Melcher said he had brainstormed several ways to get the money on Bach's behalf, including: charging Utilities for the use of city land and water rights; reducing Utilities' overhead costs and passing the savings on to the city; and creating an entirely new utilities service with its own charges (much like water or electric).

Echoing Bach, Melcher said he believes Utilities can fork over the money without increasing rates.

Yet Utilities spokespeople and City Council President Scott Hente — both of whom are also supposed to be represented by the city attorney — say it's virtually impossible.

"[Bach and Melcher] think there's this pot at the end of the rainbow laden with money, and it's there for the taking," Hente says. "It shows their complete lack of experience in dealing with large organizations that have large business and large obligations."

During his campaign for mayor in 2011, Bach pledged not to raise taxes while in office. But the right thing to do for stormwater, Hente argues, is to ask for an increase.

"If you know there's insufficient revenue, make a case to voters," Hente says. "Don't do an end run around Utilities, and basically extract it from voters anyway."

Uncharted waters

Of all Melcher's ideas for making Utilities pay, the most intriguing involves water and property ownership.

"Remember, the city owns the water," Melcher says. "The city provides — all the water rights of the entire city are held in the name of the city, so the city provides the water to the utility company. The city also provides free access to all the right-of-ways in the city to the utility.

"For example, if you have a private utility, they pay taxes, [a] right-of-way fee, [a] franchise fee. So there's a number of different things that need to be examined and researched to see if there are funds or monies that could be available for other purposes, such as stormwater."

Of course, Utilities already pays the aforementioned $31 million to the city annually to cover some of these costs; Melcher just believes more may be justified.

But asking a municipally owned utility to pay for the use of city water rights appears to be unusual. The *Independent* contacted four Colorado water attorneys on the issue to see if such a scenario was legal, or had been used before. Two said they didn't know the answer and wouldn't comment anyway, because their work was connected to Utilities. The other two did not call back. Utilities' own lawyers could not comment objectively on the issue because Melcher is their boss.

The *Independent* also called water service offices in Pueblo, Aurora and Denver. Each utility owns its own water rights.

The Colorado Municipal League says it doesn't know enough about its member cities to comment on such an issue. The American Water Works Association did not return phone calls.

Only Aurora Water offers any guidance. Spokesperson Greg Baker says that leaders in his organization aren't sure about the legality of charging for water rights, but they think such a scenario could run into problems with the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights and the state constitution, given language about the separation of municipalities and their enterprises.

'Remember, the city owns the water.'

While it's unlikely that Colorado Springs Utilities would sue the city — again, they share the same attorney — if the city started charging for its water rights, a ratepayer could challenge the issue in court.

Melcher's other ideas might have less traction. Creating efficiencies and passing the money on to the city violates Issue 300. Creating a separate utility for stormwater, while a common practice in other cities, would likely be complex, and might require voter approval.

Where's the money?

Utilities spokespeople roundly object to the notion that the business is a cash cow ripe for the slaughter.

Nor do they buy into the notion that they haven't done enough for their hometown. Spokesperson Steve Berry notes that Utilities already performs city stormwater projects, because they often protect pipes from damage. Those projects also incidentally benefit bridges, roads and neighborhoods. This year alone, Utilities will spend $12.8 million on such projects.

As for extra money, Utilities is about $30 million short in funding for its own capital projects this year, due to a sagging economy. That means fewer upgrades and less maintenance to the system, and a greater risk of costly failures.

If Utilities were suddenly saddled with paying for all the city's stormwater issues, Berry says, rates would have to increase to cover those bills. And Utilities could be hit in another way, too, through higher interest rates on its billions in debt.

"The more you start bringing in another function, what then does that do to your ability to borrow at a low interest rate?" Berry asks. "Because that's considered increased risk."

But Berry says the most important consideration is this: Would forcing Utilities to pay fix the problem? The answer, he says, is "no." By nature, stormwater is a regional issue, he says, and addressing it on a city level won't work.

"You could fix something here and you could do your best to protect it," Berry says. "... [But] upstream, if those flows are unmanaged and they're still being channeled at 100-miles-an-hour via concrete channels, then that poses risk to all those investments that we made downstream ... It puts hundreds of millions of dollars of taxpayer dollars and ratepayer dollars at risk."

Berry isn't alone in his opinion. The Pikes Peak Regional Stormwater Task Force has been examining stormwater issues for months, and plans to look for a regional funding source in the future.

— stanley@csindy.com

News

A shaky foundation

$18.6 million lawsuit against Colorado Springs poses yet another threat to Memorial lease money

By Pam Zubeck

Leasing city-owned Memorial Hospital was billed as a win for everyone, and 83 percent of the voters approved of the deal Aug. 28. But Colorado Springs now faces two lawsuits stemming from that transaction. And if it loses either or both cases, or others not yet filed, there's no telling how much money will be left for a community foundation.

Bryan Oller

Having entrusted University of Colorado Health with a precious asset, the city still hopes to win financially.

Last year, the city got into a lawsuit with the Public Employees' Retirement Association. At issue there was how much the city owed to cover pensions for Memorial's 4,000 workers, who left PERA when control of Memorial transferred to the University of Colorado Health on Oct. 1. The city claims it owes PERA nothing, though UCH paid the city $185 million to cover the PERA obligation; PERA contends it's owed $240 million. A trial is scheduled for October.

Now, a second lawsuit is underway. Filed Oct. 31, the suit was brought by nine investment funds and alleges the city illegally redeemed $41.8 million in bonds without paying interest through 2019, as it promised it would in 2009. The amount due is $18.6 million, bondholders claim.

City Attorney Chris Melcher hasn't formally briefed City Council on the new case, say Councilor Brandy Williams and President Pro Tem Jan Martin, though a brief description of the lawsuit is found on page 11 of Melcher's 68-page quarterly legal report.

"I don't remember being made formally aware of that," Williams says in an interview, adding that she wasn't happy to hear about it "through the grapevine." Martin says she is "appalled" Melcher didn't report "something as important as this" to Council. "There's already concern [that] so much is tied up in the PERA lawsuit," Martin notes.

Asked why he hasn't told the Council yet, Melcher says, "It's not a major piece of litigation, and we don't expect it to have a significant impact that requires Council's immediate attention."

Help from D.C.

The city was paid $259 million when the lease closed — $185 million to satisfy the PERA obligation and $74 million in an up-front lease payment. The city also was given roughly $330 million in cash-on-hand from Memorial, in exchange for assuming responsibility for Memorial's debt.

In a July 20 interview with the *Independent*, Melcher said there were ample funds to pay off the debt, which included a bank loan, a series of bonds that could be paid off early without penalty, and another bond issue that couldn't be paid off without a penalty.

"We are working right now," Melcher said then, "with outside counsel and bond lawyers to be sure we secure those funds in an appropriate account, maybe an escrow account or some other vehicle, to pay those bonds as they come due and as they are able to be called."

But the city redeemed the bonds in October, despite protests from the nine funds, who represent investors, including retirees, from New York to San Francisco.

According to the investors' lawsuit, the city maneuvered to avoid future interest by transferring Memorial not to UCH, which is a governmental entity, but rather to its nonprofit partner, Fort Collins-based Poudre Valley Health System. A nonprofit can't legally hold tax-free bonds like those issued by Memorial; only a governmental entity can do so, the lawsuit states. "In this way," the lawsuit states, "the city hoped to force a mandatory redemption ..."

But the transaction with Poudre Valley was a straw transaction, the lawsuit asserts, because the lease agreement calls for Poudre Valley to hold the lease for just 18 months, then transfer it to UCH-MHS, a new entity being created, for the remainder of the 40-year lease.

When asked for comment, the plaintiffs' attorney Elizabeth Burnett of Boston stated, "The city's so called 'redemption' of the bonds wrongfully deprived them of future interest payments of over $18 million."

While Melcher dismissed the lawsuit as having "no merit," he's hired a Washington, D.C., law firm, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr, which has represented such A-list clients as Apple, Boeing, General Electric and Goldman Sachs. Melcher didn't provide the dollar figure of the retention agreement by press time.

UCH spokeswoman Jacque Montgomery distanced UCH from the dispute, saying via e-mail, "UCHealth made an up-front payment to the city when we began operating Memorial. It was the city's decision to choose how to relieve itself of the outstanding debt."

Melcher's mindset

The lawsuits are important, because their outcome will determine how much the city retains from the Memorial lease to spend on other community health needs, via the newly created Colorado Springs Health Foundation.

Melcher says he doesn't think the lawsuits will have a material impact. "We fully expect all the funds that we have projected to be available to the foundation to still be available to the foundation," he says.

But Martin, who in September said she was "nervous" the deal wouldn't play out as planned, still has reservations.

"It appears we haven't been kept informed what lawsuits are out there regarding Memorial," she says. "So without that information it's hard to even know what the long-term consequences might be. The money we received from Memorial is currently tied up in an escrow account for PERA. So I think there's quite a few questions to be answered before I can say what's ahead for that money."

Melcher says the city hasn't heard of other bondholder claims that might lead to lawsuits, and notes the city has $25 million in foundation money to cover outstanding, but as yet unknown, liabilities that might arise from the city's prior operation of Memorial, such as workers' compensation and malpractice suits.

— zubeck@csindy.com

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News

Rolling joints

A new marijuana delivery service stretches the law

By Bryce Crawford

Somewhere between the lines in the new recreational-marijuana laws is an amorphous gray area where it's not exactly clear what's legal and what's going to get you arrested.

And driven by the theory that if something's not forbidden then it's allowed, creative entrepreneurs across Colorado are making money in that muddy space. They're specifically seizing on the section of the new law that says an individual can transfer up to an ounce of cannabis to somebody else, as long as it's free. One local example is Club 710, where folks can hit a physical location to partake of free pot products *after* paying admission.

But another Colorado Springs company has combined the uncertainty of Amendment 64 with the limitations of the medical-marijuana-minded Amendment 20 — mainly, that you have to be a registered patient who can only purchase cannabis at physical locations between certain hours — to create Billygoatgreen MMJ. It's a delivery service that, despite the name, caters to anybody 21 and up.

"Why waste your time and energy driving to and dealing with a dispensary when you can just call us and have your bud delivered directly to you?" asks a January posting from its Facebook page, which is full of offerings like $55 quarter-ounces of Sour Kush. "You could be getting high right now," exclaims another. "Call or text us at 719-213-1740 and get some chronic delivered, for crying out loud."

Photo illustration by Devin Gustafson

The marijuana itself is free. Payments actually are "suggested donation[s] towards researching [marijuana] and improving our cultivation operation," explain the business owners in an e-mail to the *Independent*. (Fair to say theirs is a strong suggestion: If you don't "donate," the delivery person doesn't hand over your order.)

Despite their bravura, it's clear that the Billygoatgreen folks recognize the hazards of their business. They declined to provide the *Indy* with their names, offering only that they're a husband-and-wife duo in their 30s who recently came to the area after growing and delivering MMJ to indigent patients in southern Colorado.

"We own a home outside of Springs on quite a bit of land where we grow all of our medicine," reads an e-mail. "[It's] mostly indoors in a greenhouse but we have a few plants outside as well."

Outside of social media, Billygoatgreen posts on Craigslist and backpage.com, the latter advertising delivery availability for those in the Springs, Falcon, Peyton, Ellicott, Yoder and Fountain. If the posts stay up (as opposed to being flagged as inappropriate), the couple says, they might take 30 calls in a day, every last one legal.

"If I show up at your house with less than an ounce of marijuana, I'm 21, you're 21, and I say, 'Hey dude, it cost me 50 bucks in gas to get over here,' and you give me 50 bucks for my gas, there's nothing illegal," says Lt. Mark Comte with the Metro Vice, Narcotics and Intelligence Division. "I mean, you and I both know what's going on with it, but they know what the loopholes are right now."

Brian Vicente, a Denver attorney and co-author of Amendment 64, says, regardless, anyone in the gray should play it safe. "If they are operating in this area, there's some legal backing for it, but it's not black-and-white clearly legal," he says. "But what is clearly *illegal* is for you to sell me a joint. So if it is looking like a sale, people need to be concerned."

— bryce@csindy.com

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Noted

News briefs from the Front Range

Bach targets Council pay

We won't know for a couple weeks whether voters will get a chance to give City Council members a raise from $6,250 a year to $48,000 a year, effective in 2015. That's because the measure squeaked by on first reading last week on a vote of 5-4, and Mayor Steve Bach is urging defeat during a second reading Feb. 12.

So far, no one has said they'll change their vote.

Supporters, including *Indy* publisher John Weiss, argue Council is a full-time job that only those who are retired, independently wealthy or reliant on a spouse's income can afford to do. Paying more would attract more diverse candidates, they say.

Others argue that paying more doesn't guarantee better candidates. And Councilor Tim Leigh objects to adding a $561,000-per-year pay-and-benefits expense. — ***PZ***

A ball at inauguration

There were plenty of highlights for the 16 members of Ballet Folklorico de la Raza, the Mexican folk dance troupe that traveled to Washington, D.C., to perform in the inauguration parade. But the best moment had to be dancing in front of President Obama and the first family.

"They were so friendly, smiling and waving down at us," says founder Connie Benavidez. She says one of the 7-year-old dancers even broke the rules and stopped to wave at Obama. The president pointed at her and waved back.

Benavidez adds her small group got plenty of attention from media (including interviews with ABC and CNN) and parade coordinators: "We were treated like royalty."

Benavidez still needs to pay for the trip, though, so her group is holding a fundraiser with a taco bar and a silent auction from 6 to 11 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 16 at the Fraternal Order of Eagles club at 1830 N. Academy Blvd. You can contact Benavidez for donations at 573-4826 and watch a video of the group in the parade at tinyurl.com/b24pz96. — ***EA***

Sen. Hill backs ASSET

Sen. Owen Hill, a freshman Republican from Colorado Springs, shocked many supporters last week by siding with Democrats in voting to pass the ASSET bill out of the Senate Education Committee.

The bill would allow undocumented Colorado teens to pay in-state tuition at state colleges. The bill also stipulates that these students must either have sought, or plan to seek, legal status.

Hill's vote didn't sit well with former Sen. Dave Schultheis, who stated on social media that it has made him regret his onetime support of Hill. In a statement, Hill responded in part by saying: "There is one paramount reason I have supported this bill, the movement of a free people is critical to the success of free markets and a free people." — ***CH***

'Personhood' reappears

In 2010, Colorado voters crushed Amendment 62, which would have granted inalienable rights to "every human being from the beginning of the biological development of that human being."

Last year, "personhood" supporters failed to get a measure onto the ballot.

Undaunted, Colorado Springs GOP Rep. Janak Joshi last week introduced legislation that would allow prosecutors to charge defendants for the death or injury of an "unborn member of the species homo sapiens."

Pleased with the legislation, Personhood Colorado held a press conference Monday to champion the closing of these "current loopholes in Colorado law."

The bill was referred to a House committee, where it has been postponed indefinitely. — ***CH***

Give! exceeds $982,000

Four years in, the *Indy*'s *Give!* campaign is knocking on the door of $1 million.

In a gathering Wednesday at El Pomar's Garden Pavilion, campaign leaders will announce that 2012's campaign funneled $982,222 to 58 local nonprofits. While some came in the form of matching and challenge grants, about 8,000 individual donors contributed more than $700,000.

"In a year where I have to admit expecting donor burnout after everyone came together to support the victims of the Waldo Canyon Fire, our amazing supporters bested last year's donations by $280,000," says *Independent* general manager and *Give!* co-chair Carrie Simison-Bitz.

For more on *Give!*, see indygive.com, or the four-page insert in the middle of this issue. Or go to the Garden Pavilion (1661 Mesa Ave., behind the Penrose House) at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday — the ceremony, which will include awards and check presentations, is free. — ***KW***

Compiled by Edie Adelstein, Chet Hardin, Kirk Woundy and Pam Zubeck.

Trails folks oppose measure

File Photo

The Trails and Open Space Coalition won't back the trails, open space and parks measure on the April 2 ballot.

The measure, proposed by Mayor Steve Bach's Parks Solutions Team, allows the city to spend all of the 20 percent of the TOPS tax dedicated to parks, for parks maintenance. (The rest of the tax money is split between trails and open space.)

Approved by voters in 1997, the tax was earmarked for acquisition and development, not maintenance. It generates about $6.2 million annually, of which about $1.1 million goes to parks.

Both the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and the TOPS Working Committee supported a "maintenance of effort" clause be added to prevent the city from simply using TOPS money to backfill any declines in general fund allocations for parks maintenance.

Mayor Steve Bach opposed the maintenance of effort (MOE) during the Jan. 22 Council meeting, saying it's "bad policy" because it ties his hands in allocating funding. "Are we saying parks are more important than the police department or roads?" Bach asked.

Council obliged the mayor, voting 7-2 to place the measure before voters without an MOE, with Councilors Jan Martin and Brandy Williams dissenting. Two days later, the coalition board voted to oppose the modified measure.

MOEs in the past haven't worked, most notably after the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority 1-percent sales tax was passed in 2004 with a requirement the city maintain its transit allocation from the general fund. It didn't, but rather relied on RTA money to backfill that loss.

In a letter to city parks director Karen Palus, the coalition said, "Without a maintenance of effort included in the ballot, we fear TOPS funding will be used [to] replace general fund support for parks, meaning less money supporting our parks, trails and open spaces. ... We watched what happened in 2010 when playgrounds weren't repaired, bathrooms closed and trash cans removed. Residents deserve assurances that our policymakers will not let that happen again."

Susan Davies, the coalition's executive director, says the group's opposition won't be overt, but will be clear.

"We won't be out with yard signs," she says. "But I think when our members and partners and other organizations ask us, we're going to be very honest about our position and explain why."

— ***Pam Zubeck***

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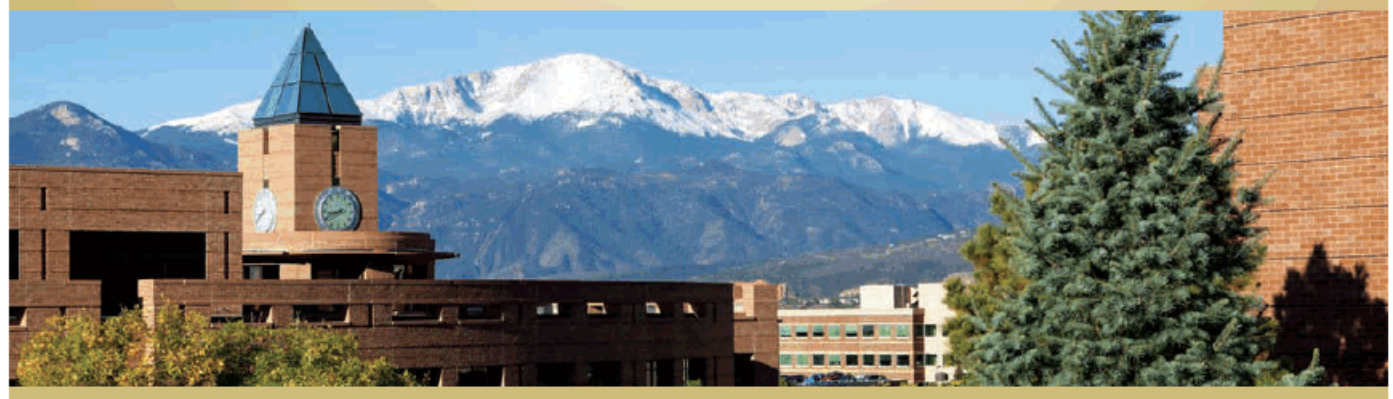

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No God, no problem

Local counselors push a secular treatment option for addicts in Colorado Springs

By Chet Hardin

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When Eric Lopez talks about his road to recovery, he doesn't mention a higher power.

Chet Hardin

Eric Lopez credits much of his recovery to self-will.

He talks about the support of his wife, Erin, of the comfort he found in music and art therapy, and of pulling himself out of alcohol addiction through his own self-will.

"It was self-reliance," he says. "I had to want it. It was self-help."

That self-help, he adds, was encouraged by a support group called LifeRing.

Lopez, 30, works at A Good Life Counseling on Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard, and was first introduced to LifeRing a year ago by his boss, Angie Bastille. At her suggestion, he attended a class in Denver. And, he says, "I loved every aspect of it."

LifeRing meetings are essentially group conversation, says Lopez. Participants talk about their week, their struggles, and how they prevented themselves from drinking. Or, he says, if they did drink, they talk about how to avoid putting themselves in that situation again.

Participants, he says, "focus on the self." Which brings up one of the fundamental differences between LifeRing and 12-step programs like Alcoholics Anonymous: "We just don't speak about our religious beliefs in meetings," he says.

Nor do they use some of the terms common to other programs. "I once was, and probably still am, an alcoholic," Lopez says. "But the thing about LifeRing is that you don't have to label yourself."

Inspired, Lopez decided to become a coach, or "convener," in LifeRing. He sent an e-mail to all the local probation officers he knew, asking them to send people to his Friday evening group sessions at A Good Life.

It hasn't worked.

That Lopez's sessions remain mostly empty doesn't surprise Kathleen Gargan, a Denver-based convener who sits on LifeRing's national board. "AA has been around for 75 years, and it's worked well for many people," she says. "The stakes are high in recovering from addiction, so some people might be a little leery of something new."

And LifeRing is relatively new — and small. Incorporated in 2001, the international nonprofit is run by one part-time employee in Oakland, Calif., and has an annual budget, Gargan says, of roughly $50,000.

Gargan, who has been sober for 31 years, retired from teaching in 2003 and began to work at expanding LifeRing in Colorado. Since then, the organization's presence in the state has grown from one group to 15. The Colorado Springs location is only the third outside of Denver.

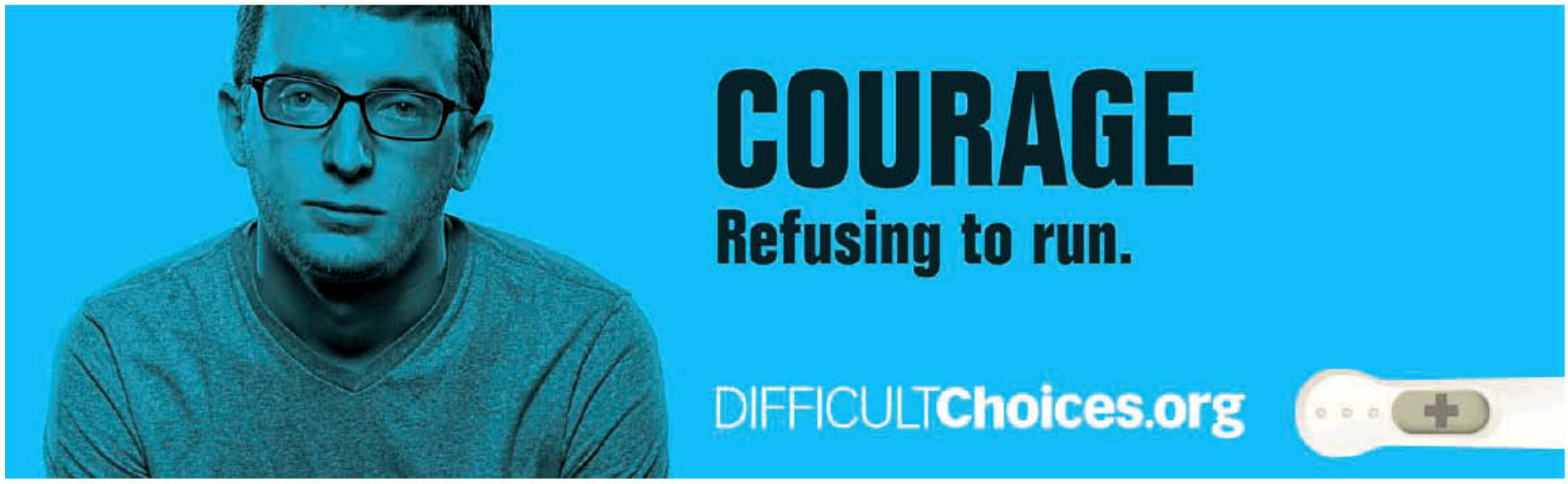
"One of the ways we've grown is that we have done outreach to treatment centers, and drug courts," says Gargan. "The more you stay in touch with those folks, the more they remember you."

Ryan Mills, a supervisor in the 4th Judicial's Probation Department, says his officers actively encourage people to seek help outside court-ordered classes and therapy: "In general, when people need extra support, such as the 12 steps, AA, we encourage them to get involved with something like that," he says. But, he says, "I don't personally know about LifeRing. ... I'm not sure that the officers in the trenches know about LifeRing."

Lopez says he's trying to spread the word, and continues to send information to other agencies.

"This is a really valuable option that Colorado Springs needs," says Bastille. "There has to be some kind of choice."

— chet@csindy.com



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WITH EFFORTS LIKE ROAD TRIPS AND RADIO SHOWS, THREE ORGS LEAD AN ARTISTIC REBOOT

By Edie Adelstein

Bryan Oller

Each year, the FAC adds more art to its permanent collection, part of which is seen here in the two-dimensional storage area of the basement.

They say it takes three to make a trend, three to make a crowd, and for writers, three items to prove your point. (See what I mean?) And if we're to track what's moving among the arts organizations in this town, you don't have to dig much to find three places that prove the Latin phrase: *omne trium perfectum*, or, everything that comes in threes is perfect.

OK, "perfect" isn't the right word, but how about "better"?

Since October 2008, locals in the arts world, like everyone else, have suffered financially. Galleries shuttered (remember Gallery Two-Ten? Edifice Gallery?), and nonprofits struggled to make ends meet. In 2010, Sam Gappmayer, president and CEO of the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, told the *Indy* he'd been forced to cut staff by 20 percent in two years. Smokebrush Gallery had downsized even earlier, both in employees and square footage.

Lately, however, things have quietly started to pick up. Galleries, like Colorado Expressions on East Kiowa Street and G44 Gallery on South Eighth Street, have opened. The Ivywild School will debut as a cultural hub in March, with murals on its walls and guest artists in a studio run by former Smokebrush director Holly Parker. And Smokebrush itself has gone bigger again, moving to a new location in the Trestle Building and focusing on the "healing arts" with daily yoga classes and a lively schedule of art shows, concerts and receptions.

In the heart of downtown, the Alley Arts District is moving forward, slowly but steadily, with organizers hoping to create a cosmopolitan alleyway between Cascade Avenue and Tejon Street, stretching from East Platte Avenue to East Kiowa Street. It's a huge idea that requires coordination and agreement from the dozens of businesses and entities sharing the alley. But buoyed at least in part by the promotional and fundraising efforts of Alleyscapes, an initiative of Leadership Pikes Peak's Leadership NOW program, the Downtown Partnership has pledged $500,000 to the effort, reported the *Colorado Springs Business Journal*.

The MUSEUM SOCIETY puts the FAC into a new class.

2013 also marks the second year of the Cultural Office of the Pikes Peak Region's Peak Arts Fund, which last year distributed $35,995 to 15 local arts nonprofits and hopes to raise $50,000 in its 2013 campaign that kicks off in March. COPPeR has also launched the Art in Store fronts initiative, which turns vacant shops downtown into sites for temporary art installations.

Suffice to say, there's more to talk about than a single story can handle. So let's look at three legacy organizations that help define the arts — and help produce some of what COPPeR says is an annual economic impact of nearly $100 million — in the Pikes Peak region. Taking markedly different paths, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, the Business of Art Center and the Cottonwood Center for the Arts have all weathered the times' significant changes and emerged stronger.

Worldly wise

In 2007, the Fine Arts Center completed an expansion from 88,000 to roughly 137,000 square feet. A good thing, yes. But when the economy cratered soon after, covering the expansion's $28 million cost became more difficult.

The FAC carried on gallantly, making do with a small staff and then some — by offering expanded theater programming and events like family days to attract nontraditional museum visitors. Today, those bills are getting close to being paid off, says museum director Blake Milteer.

"It's a little more complex than that," cautions Gappmayer. "But in general, I

Bryan Oller

A patron studies an art quilt in the BAC's Generations *exhibit.*

think it's fair to say we're getting comfortable in the new digs ..."

Better, the museum is starting to assert itself more in the outside world.

Late last year, the FAC started the Museum Society, a museum group run by Milteer and development director Tom Jackson that takes members behind the scenes at the FAC, as well as to local collectors' homes, artists' studios and, most recently, to the Denver Art Museum for a walk through *Becoming Van Gogh* with exhibition curator Timothy J. Standring. Fees for the Society, on top of a regular museum membership, can be steep — $500 annually per couple for a full membership or $100 annually per couple for an introductory membership — but the perks are great. For the Denver trip, 20 group members chartered a Gray Line bus and sipped wine on the drive back while discussing the show with Milteer. They're planning a trip out of state to an arts destination this spring, with designs on an international venture in the future. (And mind you, they get in where most people don't.)

The group isn't only for art lovers, but collectors as well. With Milteer helping, those collectors can work to build a cohesive collection of their own (more on that later). Plus, those who buy art can build networks with brokers, galleries, artists and other curators. Those networks, in turn, link the FAC to other people and organizations, which then pulls the Springs as a whole into the web.

"Part of the goal of this group is to nurture a kind of worldliness that we can bring back to the community," Milteer says. Indeed, this Society puts the FAC in a new class of museums, in a way. Groups like this are pretty standard in the high-level art world. The DAM has one for most of its 12 curatorial departments, and big guns like the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City have some expressly for young professionals.

Further following the lead of major institutions, the FAC is creating an online database of key pieces from its collection. Volunteers are snapping images of the works with the museum registrar, and the marketing department is building the digital structure; Gappmayer estimates they're within months of going online. He says they'll post between 200 and 300 pieces in the first year, and add to that on an ongoing basis.

Everything about
JOHNSON AND BOHNEN
is fashionable, energetic, new.

A system like this not only offers a point of FAC entry for, say, a Native American pottery enthusiast in Australia, but it helps display the collection for museums that may wish to borrow from it. Like the Society, it's something to put Colorado Springs on the map.

There's a third major coup in the FAC's effort to up its (and the Springs') profile, and it has to do with the Floyd Tunson retrospective that Michael Paglia of *Westword* called "one of the greatest ever devoted to a Coloradan." Next month, *Artforum* will run a review of the show — the FAC's first appearance in the international magazine that's widely considered the art world's publication of record.

As for the art itself? The FAC's permanent collection is growing by about 30 to 40 works annually. 2012 brought pieces from South African artist William Kentridge (the subject of a 2010 exhibit) and Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi. It also brought a promise from Ron and Una Brasch: to donate their private collection, one with lots of big names, to the FAC upon their deaths.

"As a result of that promise," Gappmayer says, "Ron and Una work closely with [Milteer] as they continue to collect going forward so we can have an appropriate level of input into the shaping of that collection."

Ask Milteer about the present day, though, and he says there's one thing the FAC lacks — a flagship piece of art. The Walt Kuhn "Trio" and John Singer Sargent portrait of Elsie Palmer are great, but they haven't defined the place. "And it's time," Milteer says with a smile.

"We're always looking for that," Gappmayer says. "I know [Milteer] has his eye on — and I'm not going to say what — a particular piece that we hope to purchase in the next couple of months."

Like a phoenix

Patrick Bohnen offers a mug of tea from his new office inside the Business of Art Center. He's wearing a newsboy cap, a button-down shirt with a BAC button, and a kilt, his usual attire. "I'll call it a skirt every now and then, because in all honesty that's what it is. It's not wool, it's not nine yards, it's not a great kilt, so ..." Bohnen says good-naturedly. He adds that he first

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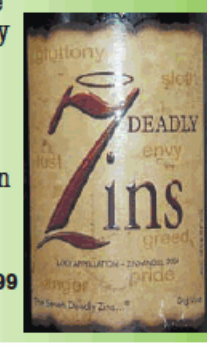

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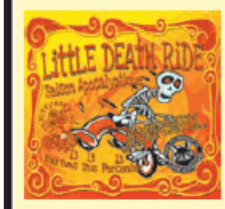

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Bryan Oller

Khoury (far right) poses with a few Cottonwood staff members inside the revamped clay studio.

donned the garment on a whim, and is not really Scottish.

What the 23-year-old *is*, however, is the BAC's newest gallery manager and curator. And though the gallery schedule is set through mid-2014, Bohnen is already busy trying to seek out Denver and Pueblo artists to show there.

Leaving his office, he meets up with Natalie Johnson, 36, BAC executive director, herself wearing a warm get-up of a dress, undershirt and boots. Everything about the two of them is fashionable, energetic, new. And the vibe carries through much of the complex, a testament to Johnson's ability to find opportunity in calamity.

Last August, just two months after Johnson arrived, an unknown group or person snuck into Venue 515, stopped up all the drains and let the water run overnight. Insurance would cover most of the $100,000 in repairs, but the BAC was still on the hook for $10,000 in ancillary costs, and without half its public space for months.

Johnson and company (numbering 25 studio artists and 65 member artists) responded by embarking on a vigorous membership drive. They held donation parties, like a community "group hug" reception and a concert at Stargazers Theatre & Event Center. And as they reconstructed the building, they thought big.

When the place reopened last November, revamped lighting afforded the BAC a another proper gallery space (bringing the complex a total of six such spaces), and a new upstairs layout yielded room for a community reading room and gallery. Johnson's own business, Black Cat Books, moved from a block and a half away to the gift shop area of the 513 building. She keeps the operations pretty separate, but a bookstore does well to draw people in to the galleries, she says, and keeps the place on a more regular business-hour schedule overall.

The center still regularly offers classes that focus, literally, on the business of art: public relations, marketing, building a patron base. But the galleries are flanked by nearly 30 studios, some with impressive kilns and printing presses. Venue 515 houses offices, holds concerts and events, and serves soups and coffees in its café.

Public (non-artist) membership has shot up to about 140 people, and Johnson reports that the BAC is in better financial shape than it has been in a long time.

All of which makes the BAC, more and more, a site of myriad activities. The Friday the *Indy* visited, Johnson counted 20 events going on that week alone, from one-time concerts to its weekly groups, which range from t'ai chi classes, to spirituality discussion gatherings, to kids' music jams to a knitting circle. On Jan. 19 it hosted volunteers for the National Day of Service.

The place, it seems, is outgrowing its name.

"We feel like 25 years ago when the organization was founded, there was a real need for that professional artist incubator program, where you're taking professional seminars and that sort of stuff," says Bohnen. "But now our mission has sort of shifted to more of a community center for artists ... wherein we provide studio space, we're providing galleries, we're providing shows."

That community part is certainly growing. In response to the Waldo Canyon Fire, the BAC launched Art for a New Start, which promised anyone who lost a home a free piece of art. It gave away about 240 pieces, and allowed fire victims to convene at a lighthearted reception free of stressful business and insurance talk.

While a new logo is in the works no matter what, Johnson says the board is taking its time on the name change. On a window looking into the clay studio there's a cluster of ideas scribbled on Post-It notes: Fart Monster Building, Big Art Manitou, Building Art Community, Don't Change It.

October will mark the center's 25th birthday, which is the absolute latest the board has to decide on a name. Johnson feels like something will be decided sooner, if not by next month. Knowing her and Bohnen, you get the feeling it'll happen.

Branching out, building up

Cottonwood Center for the Arts may be 40,000 square feet in size, but to get an idea of the changes that have rocked the place from foundation to roof, all you need to see is the lobby.

There's artwork in it.

Every month, a handful of Cottonwood members display, salon-style, in the building's entryway. In mid-January, they presented stained glass, folk paintings and traditional landscapes. The walls used to be bare, before Jon Khoury became executive director.

Khoury, 50, arrived Aug. 6, and in the six short months since then has transformed the 15-year-old institution. For instance, Cottonwood's artist studios are

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completely filled, including the new "studios" they created by clearing out old storage closets. If you want in, you join others on a waiting list.

There are now monthly art shows with exhibits and parties scattered in between, upping the event count. Khoury says there were more people signed up for art classes in the first 11 days of 2013 than in the nine months prior to his arrival.

Which gives the energetic and sassy Khoury, who transported his wife and kids here from New York, every reason to be proud. But mostly, the Colorado College grad comes off as modest.

"The thing I know the most is that when people work together, things happen," he says.

For instance, a grant allowed Cottonwood's clay studio to be redone and to expand outside, allowing for high-fire soda and raku kilns. Springs Salsa and Dance Fitness, a venerable local dance company, has moved in. Khoury also negotiated a special studio for students from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, who lost their own when the city widened Austin Bluffs Parkway. Among the other new tenants, there's a writer, tattoo artist, a body artist (whose résumé includes work on Syfy's *Face Off*) and woman who's starting her own newspaper.

Even on a fairly mellow Friday, the place is buzzing. People are walking in and out; laughter from bright studios spills down hallways. "When I come in here at 7 o'clock in the morning, there are people leaving," Khoury says. "There are people who have been here all night."

It's unlikely to slow down anytime soon.

Cottonwood hit radio waves for the first time Jan. 27 with the locally produced *Roadtrip Radio*, which airs at 8 some Sunday mornings on KREL-AM 1580. *Roadtrip* host Patty Sue Spiers and Khoury have already recorded four shows, interviewing staff members in Cottonwood's gallery; next they'll move on to Cottonwood artists. For now, the segments will air monthly, but they could become weekly installments. If those are successful, they'll record live.

Spiers first approached Cottonwood about the show after her crew filmed a 30-minute segment on the place late last year for *Roadtrip Television*. Khoury says it attracted the highest ratings that host station, KWHS-LD, Channel 51, has ever recorded.

Meanwhile, Cottonwood on Tejon, the institution's satellite gallery, is also flourishing. In December, it posted better sales numbers than it had during the entire previous year — likely because Khoury has made it the only place to buy Cottonwood art. The main building is for work and events, and to sell in the store, you must be juried in.

As for those classes mentioned earlier? Cottonwood's going to start offering kids' courses, too, timed around school breaks in the spring and summer. And on Wednesdays, the public can drop in during a three-hour window for a live drawing session with a model and a mentor (not an instructor, Khoury says). It's just $5 if you're a member, and $10 if you're not.

"The goal is not [to] try to compete with everybody else, but to make our own way," he says.

> 'The GOAL is not [to] try to compete with everybody else, but to MAKE OUR OWN WAY.'

Khoury lived that mantra in New York, making a living representing artists and organizing unusual events. For instance, he developed "Moveable Art" shows, in which companies like IBM and Pepsi hosted temporary art displays in their buildings. Another venture he led called "Lunchtime Café" brought in artwork, baristas and live music (ranging from steel drums to chamber groups) to company cafeterias. "No one else was doing it," he says. "That's how I built a business."

Some of his goals for Cottonwood are equally bold: For one, he hopes to turn the dead-end road to Cottonwood's east — home to Vallejo's Restaurant and the new Mardosz Fine Art — into a district of its own.

Regardless, Khoury has already earned Cottonwood's love. Near his office lies the shared studio of Jo Carol Ciborowski and Tish Lacy Reed. During our visit, Khoury pops in to find Reed talking with former Cottonwood artist Deb Komitor. Both women greet him warmly and gush over what he's done.

"It's wonderful. It's really hopping," Komitor says. "It's hopping. Good energy here."

"Oh my god. This man!" Reed says, laughing. "You're such a breath of fresh air."

Khoury demurs politely. "And just to clarify something," he says later, "what was going on here before we all arrived was great. It was a beautiful start. It was a foundation to let us do what we want to do.

"We're kind of getting into a new mode now where people are realizing that it's not just a flash in the pan, it's really for real and it continues to grow," he says. "And it's just amazing. And I mean 'grow' just in terms of diversity, the people, the action in the building. It's unbelievable."

— edie@csindy.com

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SEVEN DAYS TO LIVE

30 Wednesday

music

The **EverGreen Grass Band** is not your father's bluegrass outfit, but it could be your older brother's. Over the last five years, Eau Claire, Wisconsin's self-proclaimed "anti-grass" band has played entire sets of Smashing Pumpkins covers, shared stages with the similarly eclectic Trampled by Turtles, and won its hometown magazine's readers poll for "Best Bluegrass Band" (oh, the irony). The group's 2010 *For Sheriff* album boasts engaging originals like "Springtime Bright" that mosey down the same Dead-influenced path as newgrass favorites like Railroad Earth. You can catch them tonight at 8 p.m., for no cover, at **Front Range Barbeque** (2330 W. Colorado Ave., frbbq.com). **— *BF***

31 Thursday

stage

Charlie Brown is nothing if not a boy with his back continually against the wall, living a life of mild bafflement. (Just check out the fact that Peter Robbins, former TV voice of Brown, was arrested last week for allegedly stalking and threatening his ex-girlfriend and her plastic surgeon.) ***You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown***, Clark Gesner's 1967 musical that's being performed at 6 tonight (and last night) by the Colorado Springs Conservatory, gets right to the core of that confusion, as our wobbly protagonist copes with what the hell it even means to be a decent person. Contemplation will occur at **Stargazers Theatre & Event Center** (10 S. Parkside Drive, csconservatory.org), where tickets are $5 to $10. **— *BC***

Identity theft

Prelude delivers a life lesson wrapped in a parable of love

If you're lucky, you've experienced a kiss that changed your life, sending you in a different direction — with a different person — than you expected.

Multiply that effect by about a hundred, and you'll have *Prelude to a Kiss*, the Craig Lucas play nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1991 and a Tony Award in 1990, now being staged by the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center Theatre Company.

The premise: Peter and Rita have just kissed after saying "I do" when an elderly gentleman asks if he can kiss the bride. The old man's soul ends up in Rita's body, thus beginning quite a detour into uncharted territory.

"I hadn't read it in years and was pleasantly surprised by how well it stood up over (the 20-plus) years since it was first written. It is a great, classic love story," director Garrett Ayers e-mails from his Boulder home. This is his first directing stint in Colorado after extensive experience in New York.

"The relationship between the Old Man/Rita and Peter can really take an infinite number of symbolic/metaphorical forms, depending on who's watching," he continues. "Like any great play, however, it works equally well whether you view it as a parable/allegory, or take it on face value as a quasi-naturalistic, modern fairy tale play from the mid-'80s."

Cynthia Pohlson, who plays Rita, is another FAC newbie. The University of Iowa graduate relates to the script's "for better or worse" message.

"Long-term commitment means promising security and support (to the best of one's ability) even against the unknown," she writes. "This show exemplifies the struggle to live up to that promise."

Pohlson is embracing the "fun challenge" of playing a young woman as if she's inhabited by a man fast approaching death. She and local theater veteran Sol Chavez, as the elderly man, are exploring the "Rita-isms," such as her smile, that the actress must subtly replace with *his* mannerisms.

"It's deceptively simple and it's a romantic comedy," Ayers writes. "So there are a lot of potential pitfalls there. It also is a play that moves and flows, almost like a musical. It's non-stop. The timing and precision of each moment, scene, transition, etc. is incredibly important. This is probably the most choreographed non-musical play I've ever directed."

Sounds like the perfect date with your significant other. Your challenges will pale in comparison.

— *Rhonda Van Pelt*

CAPSULE

Prelude to a Kiss

Jan. 31 through Feb. 17: Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.; matinees Saturdays and Sundays, 2 p.m.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St.

Tickets: $18-$37; for more, call 634-5583 or visit csfineartscenter.org.

Find a review of this play in next week's *Indy*.

Paint It Black

TheatreWorks animates the legendary, late Mark Rothko

Find a review of this play in next week's *Indy*.

Mark Rothko's 1970 suicide was painless compared to his struggles in life. Colorado Springs will get to spend a few evenings contemplating this fact inside TheatreWorks' production of *Red*, John Logan's 2010 Tony Award-winning play. Directed by Joseph Discher, the semi-biographical, two-man play follows the abstract expressionist artist and his fictional assistant Ken in the studio in 1958 and 1959.

Having been commissioned to paint a series of murals for the Four Seasons, Rothko and Ken begin an intense journey into the heart of the artist's passions and drive. In real life, Rothko struggled for over a year with the job, creating 40 pieces that blazed new trails in his oeuvre, which had already helped define contemporary post-war art in the U.S. In 2012, Rothko's "Orange, Red, Yellow" sold at auction for over $86.9 million.

Portraying Rothko is Joel Leffert, who played the character before at the Public Theatre in Lewiston, Maine. Leffert has appeared on Broadway and at the National Theatre in London in the premiere of Tennessee Williams' *Not About Nightingales,* reports Lewiston's *Sun Journal*.

Ken, played by Jordan Coughtry, is his foil and the audience's main translator of Rothko's harsh, yet beautiful, artistic insanity. Coughtry says his character begins with a practical approach to art, and Rothko alters this immensely through his elitist intellectual style.

"There is a vast depth in his art and choice of color," Coughtry says. "He asks me several times, 'What do I see, looking at a painting?' and my answers to that question deepen and extend throughout the play. He shows me the importance of the color choices that he makes."

The art recreated onstage is representative of Rothko's more mature work, characterized by a stark background base color with swatches of complementary colors laid over the top. These hues are never quite unified and blended with the background.

"We are constantly shifting, changing and growing," Coughtry says. "We cannot be simplified. We resist this simplification when we figure it all out. But have we missed the point? This is something Rothko points out to Ken all the time."

— Joshua Michael Torres

CAPSULE

Red

Jan. 31 through Feb. 17; Wednesdays through Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., Saturday matinees at 2 p.m., Sundays, 4 p.m.

TheatreWorks, Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater, 3955 Regents Circle

Tickets: $15-$35; for more information, call 255-3232 or visit theatreworkscs.org.

First Friday Talkback with the director and actors, Friday, Feb. 1

Talkbacks after Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday performances Feb. 6-17

First Saturday gala, Feb. 2, with free drinks and snacks for the audience

Prologue lecture with University of Colorado at Colorado Springs professors Elissa Auther and Suzanne MacAulay and Clyfford Still Museum director Dean Sobel

Sunday, Feb. 3, 2:30 p.m.

Free.

1 Friday

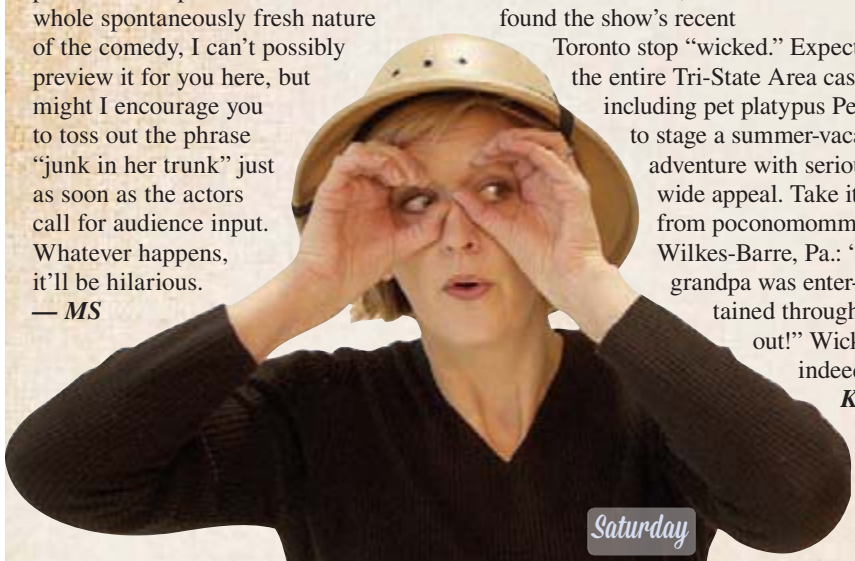
art

We have Carter G. Woodson to thank for Black History Month. Back in 1926, Woodson, a black historian, teacher and activist, founded Negro History Week, which was eventually expanded into the entire month, and to this day, is still honored in the U.S., Canada and, though held in October, the United Kingdom. **Marmalade at Smokebrush** (219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, smokebrush.org) will contribute with ***Celebration of Black***, a month-long exhibit of photography by Jana — who has captured the likes of Chaka Khan and Grace Jones for the *New York Times* and *Rolling Stone* — as well as three nights of live music and poetry. It all kicks off for free at 6 tonight, with more to follow throughout February. ***— EA***

2 Saturday

stage

You are going to the **Millibo Art Theatre** (1367 Pecan St., themat.org) today at least once, possibly twice. Firstly, to either the 11 a.m. or 2 p.m. ***Elephant Tails*** performance ($10.50) in which MAT matriarch Birgitta De Pree unpacks her real-life upbringing in Africa, contrasting the experience to the habits of pachyderms. (Provided De Pree's fine fitness level, we don't anticipate hearing the phrase "junk in her trunk.") Secondly, **The RiP** improv troupe performs at 8 p.m. for $12. Due to the whole spontaneously fresh nature of the comedy, I can't possibly preview it for you here, but might I encourage you to toss out the phrase "junk in her trunk" just as soon as the actors call for audience input. Whatever happens, it'll be hilarious. ***— MS***



3 Sunday

stage

"They did say Ferb's nose looked funny." So maybe a certain squarish something gets lost in translation from cartoon to stage in Disney's ***Phineas and Ferb Live!*** show, scheduled for noon and 3 p.m. installments today at the **Pikes Peak Center** (190 S. Cascade Ave., $19-$62, pikespeakcenter.com). But mom and online reviewer Shellmybelly is clear that overall, her kids found the show's recent Toronto stop "wicked." Expect the entire Tri-State Area cast, including pet platypus Perry, to stage a summer-vacation adventure with seriously wide appeal. Take it from poconomommy in Wilkes-Barre, Pa.: "Even grandpa was entertained throughout!" Wicked, indeed. ***— KW***

4 Monday

art

With just some magazines, a sharp blade, rubber cement and a pencil, **Dave Armstrong** can make you one hell of a piece of art. His collages look nearly like photographs. ("I strive to make images that could almost exist in reality," Armstrong says in a press release. "A slight twist makes all the difference.") A colleague of Armstrong's at Colorado College even uses one of the artist's pieces when he teaches his classes about James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Good stuff, I promise. See Armstrong's work any time between now and March 1 — which will also be the day of a closing reception — at **Dogtooth Coffee Co.** (505 E. Columbia St., #100, dogtoothcoffee.com). ***— EA***

5 Tuesday

lecture

You might not normally consider a panel discussion of three authors humorous. Heck, you might not even consider it worth leaving your couch to catch. But you should reconsider those thoughts and show up for **"God, That's Funny! Humor, Religion, Politics, Identity,"** at 7 tonight at CC's **Cornerstone Arts Center** (825 N. Cascade Ave., coloradocollege.edu). The free discussion on topics generally avoided at dinner parties includes Firoozeh Dumas (*Laughing Without an Accent* and *Funny in Farsi*), Jonathan Goldstein (*Ladies and Gentlemen: The Bible* and NPR's *Wiretap* host), and CC prof Steven Hayward (*Don't Be Afraid* and *The Secret Mitzvah of Lucio Burke*.) ***— KA***

Contributors: Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens, Bryce Crawford, Bill Forman, Matthew Schniper and Kirk Woundy.

4Play

Other options to get you excited about your week.

Backup plan
Angler's Covey: Fly Fishing Film Tour 2013, 6:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 1 at Stargazers Theatre & Event Center

Before you know it
Carnivale Parade, Feb. 9, in Manitou Springs

Potato pick
House of Cards online-only series premiere, Friday, Feb. 1 on Netflix

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Appetite

Enlightenment found

Enjoy bliss (and a sandwich) at Manitou's Good Karma

By Bryce Crawford

The name's pure Manitou Springs dippy-ness, but Good Karma Coffee Lounge & Deli really does do a good job of taking a space — in this case, the former home of Naturally's Market & Cafe — and making it feel functionally feng shui.

Brienne Boortz

If earthy's the wish, then the Beef N' Bella Melt is surely the way to go.

The room's sort of sectioned, with mismatched chairs, an umbrella holder and a plush couch in front of wooden beams; scattered live plants and exposed brick near the door; and a collection of tables in the back.

It's classic-rock greats on the radio, with "Hotel California" giving way to "Light My Fire." In the corner, Naturally's old countertop has met a case of baked goods and deli meats, and is topped with displays of dangling jewelry, while bright, acrylic abstracts created by local artists hang on the walls.

Menu-wise, mother-and-daughter co-owners Kelly Myers and Kirstin Gonyo have gone relatively simple-but-solid, doing sandwiches, coffee from Barista Espresso and baked goods like outrageous chewy macaroons made by Myers (who formerly owned Benny's Restaurant & Lounge for seven years). And though some food needs help, there's very little here I'd be sad to find in front of me again.

CAPSULE

Good Karma Coffee Lounge & Deli

110 Cañon Ave., Suite A, Manitou Springs, 685-2325, goodkarmacoffeelounge.com

Wednesday through Monday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

First, the juicy meats come from US Foods' Metro Deli, while bread arrives custom-cut via Bluepoint Bakery in Denver. The thin potato-rosemary slices aren't quite up to the task of containing the goat cheese, spinach and red-pepper spread in the Tuscan Turkey ($7.95), but there's nothing wrong with a buttery croissant full of moist roast beef and melted Swiss in the Karma Dip ($7.95). We paired both with an over-salted, under-curried pumpkin soup topped with toasted seeds, and some naked chunks of potato salad in need of more of everything.

Moving on, here are the must-orders: that dip; The Rachel ($7.95), an inch-thick layer of shredded turkey with Swiss and sauerkraut on toasted marble rye; the Sweet, Hot N' Hammy ($7.95) ham, cream cheese and jalapeño jam on buttered sourdough (which was a blast to eat and disappeared too fast); and the king of them all, the Beef N' Bella Melt ($7.95). This beautiful mess of funky love combined stacks of roast beef and slabs of portobello mushrooms with horseradish mayo to make a meaty steak-house coffin that can bury me any day.

The Cordon Bleu ($7.95) is a lovely idea and won't hurt your feelings, but more than the straight ham, turkey and Swiss is needed for standout status. Same with the B.L.T.C. ($7.95), which rocks a nice little wing-sauce mayo and thick bacon, but is better suited for those seeking something safe.

For bean-heads, a thick lavender chai latte ($3.50) could have passed for a thin eggnog if you squinted, but tasted great, and the dark-chocolate Cafe Vienna ($3.50) paired just fine with a big, chewy, homemade cinnamon roll ($2.95) that, for once, didn't try to kill me with sugar.

The only consistent downside to the whole place is the same problem you find in Old Colorado City: It closes at 5. But Gonyo says they'll probably expand their hours come springtime, which is all to the good, considering the pure joy of sitting in the sunshine on the sidewalk of that little side street. It's clear that mother and daughter have taken a recently turned-over restaurant full of castoffs from thrift stores, estate sales and "alley drive-bys" and turned it into someplace soulful.

— bryce@csindy.com

SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

House Chef's new house

Robert Brunet, owner of the in-home meal business The House Chef, recently launched **The House Chef Shoppe** (50 S. Sierra Madre St., coloradohousechef.com) inside a small wing of the Old Train Depot (formerly Giuseppe's).

Brunet says that though he now serves breakfast from 9 to 11 and lunch from 11 to 2, the Shoppe isn't actually a restaurant, but more of a grab-and-go market, with limited seating outside. Items like Cajun shrimp and grits and breakfast burritos — cooked at Gotta Love It! Kitchen, Brunet's commissary — go for $5, as do po-boys at lunch. A New Orleans-style Muffaletta costs $6 and Louisiana gumbo or red beans and rice will run you $4.

Any item off The House Chef's larger menu can also be pre-ordered online and picked up at this new spot. Brunet plans to soon carry local gourmet speciality items from other purveyors as well, such as Denver's Pappardelle's Pasta.

Now serving ...

• **Tony's** (311 N. Tejon St., tonysdowntownbar.com) plans to add breakfast service as of Tuesday, Feb. 5, from 7 to 11 a.m. daily. The small menu will feature standards like steak and eggs, pancakes, omelettes and a green-chile-optional breakfast burrito. Owner Eel Anderson says the decision to try breakfast hours was "on a whim," and that he was "looking for that new oomph."

• Ahead of plans to launch bistro-style dinner service Thursdays through Saturdays around early April, **Canyon Coffee & Café** (1791 S. Eighth St., canyon-coffee.com) will host a series of three-course pop-up dinners. The dates: Friday, Feb. 1 ($28/two for $50), Feb. 14 ($38/two for $70), March 1 and March 15. All are at 6:30 p.m. and by RSVP (prices don't include tax/tip), and full menus for the first two may be viewed on the restaurant's website. Chef Jake Ainsworth says the dishes featured in the pop-up format won't necessarily be on the new menu, but they'll "show the style of what we're able to do."

• As promised late last year, **Café Corto Coffee Gallery** (115 E. Kiowa St., cafecorto.com) will add a special Colombian dinner service, which will start Saturday, Feb. 9. How it'll work: The eatery's full menu will be available, but each night of the week (except for Sundays) a single dinner plate, in the $9.50 to $13 range, will be available after 4 p.m. (See Corto's Facebook page for the menu calendar.) Co-owner Benjamin Gallegos-Pardo says to expect large plates, such as a pair of empanadas with rice, beans, jicama salad and fried plantains.

• **Ramon Q's Cantina** (1005 W. Colorado Ave., ramonqs.com) has expanded its menu to encompass nearly a dozen new items, including a breakfast quesadilla, huevos rancheros and chili rellenos. General manager Michael Giberti says the dessert offerings have also been totally revamped to include an "unbelievable" tres leches cake.

— Matthew Schniper

APPETIZERS

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AMERICAN

Benny's
517 W. Colorado Ave.
634-9309
Since 1953! Come on in and check out our vintage sports photos & memorabilia! Happy Hour 4-7 pm Mon - Fri. Try our Fresh, hand stuffed jalapeno poppers or beer battered pickle spears. Try our Whiskey Chicken Sandwich or Benny's Bourbon burger. Fresh soup daily!

C'MON INN
711 Dale Street
in Fountain
382-7562
cmoninnfountain.com
Open Daily 11am-2am. C'mon in & then come on back! Fountain's finest neighborhood tavern features burgers, pizza, wings, pool tables, darts & much more! Karaoke on Fridays & Saturdays. Free parking & wi-fi. Happy Hour 4-7pm daily. Go Broncos!

Hatchcover Bar & Grill
252 E. Cheyenne Mtn. Blvd. (@ 115)
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If bars are hairstyles, We're the mullet! Large groups for business lunch by day, long flowing party by night! Menu ranges from fantastic nachos to juicy ribeyes! Specials day & night! 7 days a week, Open Late! Around since the 70's, our style just won't die!

The Mason Jar
2925 W Colorado Ave at 30th St
632-4820
MasonJarColorado.com
American Comfort Food served in a casual Colorado lodge atmosphere. Famous Chicken Fried Steak and real mashed potatoes, Slow Roasted Prime Rib, plus soups, salads, great Burgers, and Homemade Cobblers. Full service bar. A Family Tradition for thirty years. Serving lunch and dinner from 11am daily.

The Rabbit Hole
101 N.Tejon on Kiowa St.
719-203-5072
Voted Best New Restaurant 2011 by ***Indy*** Readers! We offer Colorado products and vegetarian items, 25 different wines, 25 different beers. Open 7 nights a week with a full menu from 4 pm to 1:30 am. Over 25 items.

South Side Johnny's
528 S. Tejon St.
444-8487
Daily 11am-2am. "It's better to eat at a bar, than drink at a restaurant." South downtown bar and grill serving burgers, steaks, pastas, salads, and classic home-style entrees like meat loaf & open faced carvings. Big screen TV, free parking, Happy Hour Daily 4-7.

Super Nova
111E. Boulder
719-418-3484
Now open in downtown Colorado Springs! 1980's video games. Daily lunch specials. Beer, wine and cocktails. Innovative menu. supernovabarcode.com

Thunder & Buttons II
2415 W. Colorado Ave.
Colorado Springs
447-9888
Voted BEST Westside Bar & BEST Karaoke. Open 11am-2am daily. Where the locals eat & drink Craft Beer! Tuesday nights-Geeks Who Drink. Karaoke Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights! Sunday Happy Hour ALL DAY!

Tony's
311 N. Tejon St.
228-6566
tonysdowntownbar.com
Daily 11am- 2am. Aahhh Jeeze- Who doesn't love a Midwestern Tavern? Pabst, Fried Cheese Curds, Old Style, Butter Burgers, Hamm's, Rueben's, Leinenkugle's, Beer Battered Walleye & more. Voted "Best Neighborhood Bar" 13 yrs., "Bang for your Buck" 8 yrs., & "Hang-out" 3 yrs. & "College Bar" 2 yrs. HH 4-7! Go Pack Go! Open for breakfast starting in February!

The Warehouse
25 W. Cimarron St.
(719) 475-8880
thewarehouserestaurant.com
Enjoy the experience of The Warehouse! The Colorado wines, spirits and microbrews we carry are a perfect match for the Progressive Colorado Cuisine presented by our talented staff. Pub noshes, salads, soups, sandwiches and burgers, domestic and game meats, pastas, vegetarian dishes, and alluring desserts.

BBQ

Buffalo Gals Grilling Co.
1701 A South 8th Street
719-635-0200
buffalogalsgrilling.com
Join us every Sat. from 10-4pm at the corner of S. 8th and Arcturus for beef tri tip "Santa Maria" style, Linguica sausage, BBQ plates with fixins', & beer & wine. We have catering menus to suit any occasion and we grill anywhere in the great outdoors!

BISTRO

Bon Ton's Café
2601 W. Colo Ave.
634-1007
Bon Ton's Café is where the locals eat located in the heart of Old Colorado City! Serving a full brunch menu: including old fashioned breakfasts, southwest specialties and delicious desserts! Don't forget to enjoy a mimosa or Bloody Mary as we like to think we are your weekend brunch vacation.

Ritz Grill
15 S. Tejon St.
635-8484
Voted Best Staff, lunch, & Mixed Drinks. The friendly, art-deco atmosphere of the Ritz is a longtime favorite of the downtown crowd. Also known for live bands, D.J.s and signature martinis. Check out the Elbo Room downstairs for private parties and meetings.

Springs Orleans
123 E. Pikes Peak
520-0123
Serving Cajun Classics & Local Favorites for breakfast, lunch & dinner daily. Also offering late night dining Friday and Saturdays till 1:00am. Happy Hour nightly 4pm - 6pm and 9pm – Close.

BREW PUB

Phantom Canyon Brewing Co.
2 E. Pikes Peak Ave.
635-2800
Housed in an historic downtown landmark building with award-winning handcrafted ales and excellent food in an open comfortable atmosphere. Breakfast and Bloody Mary specials Sundays. Second floor billiard hall w/nightly specials and third floor banquet facilities. Open at 11 a.m. daily.

CAFE & DELI

Susie's Westside Cafe
1686 S. 21st Street
442-0090
6:30-2:30 Daily *Weekday Specials *Home Style Cookin (from scratch) Pies, Soups, Chili, Biscuit & Gravy *Great Burgers, Sandwiches, Wraps, *Awesome Breakfast served all day, Best pancakes, Huevos Rancheros, Burritos, Famous "Hobo Sramble", *Calicrate Beef by "Ranch Foods" *Bacon, Sausge & Ham, by "Pig in the Sack"

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(Las Vegas and Sierra Madre)
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www.urbansteamcoffee.com

Incredible coffees brewed by the cup! Also serving handmade savory and Belgian waffles with fresh toppings, Italian Panini and light salads. Brewing on the edge of downtown, with easy access from everywhere and free parking for all. Come see what the buzz is about. MON-FRI 7A–5P, SAT-SUN 8A-4P.

CARIBBEAN

Rasta Pasta
405 N. Tejon
719-481-6888

Creative Caribbean pasta, fresh & funky salads, ridiculously good desserts. Open daily at 11 for healthy & affordable lunch & dinner. Lively atmosphere, reggae music, & outdoor dining. Great service & positive people. Daily Happy Hour 4-6 featuring Red Stripe Beer & Appleton's Rum Cocktails.

CATERING

Blue Sage
5152 Centennial Blvd.
719.332.1397
CreativeCateringSolutions.com

We are the fresh, local alternative for parties, luncheons, weddings, and any other festive occasion when you want to transcend the ubiquitous frozen appetizer. Specializing in seasonal ingredients prepared to delight you. Our warm, friendly staff is looking forward to being part of your special event. Blue Sage Café is open M-F 11am to 2pm.

Cravings
1701 S. Eighth St.
635-0200

Provides sophistication to the finest events. Intimate gatherings, weddings, holiday parties, galas. "It's all in the details" sums up our ability to handle event management, including servers, liquor, rentals, tents, flowers, valet parking and other services plus excellent food from our inspired kitchen staff.

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When you have more taste than time! Let us do the work with reasonably priced catering, from box lunches to grand events. Delivery& set up or pick up available. Voted BEST CATERER 15 years running by *Indy* readers! www.bestcaterer.net

EASTERN

Arharn Thai Restaurant
3739 Bloomington Street
719-596-6559
www.arharnthai.net

Serving authentic Thai food with affordable prices. Taste Pad Thai Ho Kai or Choo Chee Pla (Panang Fish) also enjoy a Thai dessert like mango or sweet sticky rice. Open Mon - Thurs 11:00 am – 8:30 pm, Closed Wed, Fri -Sat open till 9:00 pm, and Sun 12:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Bhan Thai
1025 N. Academy Blvd
719-574-3401
bhanthaico.com

Come and experience the tastes of "The Land of Smiles!" Spicy, sweet, sour & always highlighted with Thai herbs. 1025 N Academy Blvd, at the corner of Galley & Academy 574-3401 Open Mon-Sat 11-9 bhanthaico.com

Fujiyama
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Beautiful bigger location with Hibachi grills & a full-service bar! Enjoy authentic sushi & creative rolls, teriyaki, tempura, udon & more! See our ad or call for great lunch, Happy Hour, & Ladies night specials! Lunch 11-2:30 & Dinner 5-10:30 Mon.-Sat. & open Sunday nights 5-9.

Jun
1760 Dublin Blvd., 531-9368
3276 Centennial Blvd., 227-8690

Hours: Mon-Fri 11-2, Sat noon-3. Sun-Thurs 5-9pm, Fri-Sat 5-10. Happy hour, daily 5-6, Fri-Sat 9-10. Full Japanese menu including teriyaki, tempura and a thorough sushi selection. Jun serves both foreign and domestic beers, as well as sake and wine.

Wild Ginger Thai Restaurant
27 Manitou Ave.
634-5025

Award winning Thai Cuisine. The Best Spicy Soup in Town! Choose Mild to Very Hot on Any Dish. Over 130 Menu Items ... all delicious! Monday 5-9 p.m.; Tuesday - Thursday 11-3 p.m., 5-9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday 11-3 p.m., 5-10 p.m.; Sunday 12-9 p.m.

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GIVE! 2012 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2 SHORT MONTHS

58 LOCAL NONPROFITS

183 MATCHING GRANTS

$982,222 RAISED

8,000+ INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS

273 MEDIA FEATURES

100+ VOLUNTEERS CONNECTED

24 TRAINING SESSIONS

POWERED BY YOU & THE

GIVE! LIVE HERE. GIVE HERE.

Colorado Springs Independent

GIVE! PROVIDES 982

GRATITUDE!

Overwhelming gratitude is our attitude toward the hundreds of organizations and individuals along with 8,000 donors who partnered with the *Independent* on this year's campaign to support the vital and amazing work performed by small, local nonprofits. These feisty, creative and caring charities enrich our community in thousands of ways. While some provide literal nourishment to fill bellies and provide shelter, others provide metaphorical nourishment to make sure our lives are full.

Through Give! 2012, our 58 local nonprofits will share in $982,222, raising $280,000 more than last year. Since its inception four years ago, Give! has put $2.3 million into the pockets of Pikes Peak-region nonprofits.

Applications for returning groups will be available by the end of February 2013, with applications for new groups ready in March. If you'd like to be notified when they are ready to go, send us an email.

We are also seeking business, foundation and reward partners for Give! 2013. If you or your organization want to explore getting involved, please email us at give@csindy.com.

Give! has grown so much because our nonprofits play hard, our media partners know how to tell great stories, and our fantastic local foundations and businesses dig deep into their pockets to supply matching and challenge grants, pay credit card fees and provide rewards to our donors. And you, dear community members, never cease to amaze us with your financial generosity plus your ability to volunteer and provide in-kind contributions.

Give! truly is powered by the *Independent* and YOU. When they say, it takes a village, we know what they mean!

...AND YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!

John Weiss Carrie Simison-Bitz

John Weiss & Carrie Simison-Bitz
Give! 2012 co-chairs

LIVE + GIVE HERE

	2009	2010	2011
Participating Nonprofits	29	40	49
Media Features on Give! Nonprofits	69	123	155
No. of Donations	2,377	3,123	5,587
$ Raised	$198,234	$427,370	$699,823

,222 REASONS TO SMILE

GIVE! BY THE NUMBERS

Trails & Open Space Coalition: $54,269	Imagination Celebration: $13,346
Peak Education: $47,162	Westside CARES: $13,072
Kids on Bikes: $43,269	Greccio Housing: $12,288
Humane Society: $42,803	PlayDate Behavioral Interventions: $11,850
Springs Rescue Mission: $36,608	Catamount Institute: $11,776
Special Kids Special Families: $35,789	Pikes Peak Therapeutic Riding Center: $11,321
NAMI: $30,313	Blue Star Recyclers: $10,718
Mission Medical Clinic: $29,505	Friends of Red Rock Canyon: $10,579
CS Youth Symphony Association: $29,282	CS Community Centers: $10,561
Medicine Wheel Trail Advocates: $26,152	Diabetes Community Center: $9,915
Coalition for the Upper South Platte: $23,431	StarFit Kids: $9,682
All Breed Rescue & Training: $23,424	Community Partnership for Child Development: $9,436
TESSA: $22,958	Energy Resource Center: $9,255
Fostering Hope Foundation: $22,196	KRCC Ivywild Studio: $8,806
One Nation Walking Together: $22,050	Suicide Prevention Partnership: $8,372
Ronald McDonald House Charities of So Co: $21,478	Safe Passage: $7,745
Rocky Mountain Field Institute: $20,493	Interfaith Hospitality Network: $7,514
Safe Place for Pets: $20,400	Cottonwood Center for the Arts: $7,206
Pikes Peak Urban Gardens: $19,997	Pikes Peak Recycling on the Rise: $6,496
CASA: $19,234	Indigo Mountain Nature Center: $6,294
Cheyenne Village: $18,006	Girls on the Run of the Rockies: $6,001
CS Therapeutic Riding Center: $16,965	Springs Ensemble Theatre: $5,368
Millibo Art Theatre: $16,278	Smokebrush Foundation: $5,225
Catholic Charities: $15,666	PILLAR Institute: $5,141
Inside/Out Youth Services: $15,626	Centro de la Familia: $5,139
CS Teen Court: $15,538	Mile High Youth Corps: $4,721
Friends of Monument Valley Park: $15,481	Chico Basin Ranch: $4,250
Business of Art Center: $14,471	Ellicott Wildlife Rehabilitation Center: $3,704
Women's Resource Agency: $13,682	Ormao Dance Company: $3,156

GRAND TOTAL: $982,222

2012
58
273
8,016
$982,222

THANK YOU!

THERE WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH TIME OR SPACE TO THANK THE MYRIAD PEOPLE WHO MAKE GIVE! A SUCCESS EVERY YEAR, BUT LET US START WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

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SWEEPSTAKES SPONSORS

Watch FOX 21 tonight, Wednesday, Jan. 30 at 9 p.m. when Joe Cole and members of the Give! campaign will draw the winners of the 2013 Subaru Impreza and $12,000+ SunShare-installed solar panel array. If you miss the broadcast, we'll also announce the lucky locals in next week's *Independent*.

FOX21

A 2013 SUBARU IMPREZA

DONATED BY: The Road to Heuberger Motors Quality & Economy

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FONDUE

The Melting Pot Restaurant
30-A East Pikes Peak Ave.
(Bank One) 385-0300

Open nightly at 4:00 pm. Reservations suggested. Fun fondue style! Enjoy our delicious cheese fondues, salads, succulent lobster, tender filets and mouth watering chocolates. Enjoy fabulous wines from our award-winning wine list! Dip into something different!

GERMAN

Edelweiss Restaurant
34 E. Ramona Ave.
(South Nevada & Tejon)
633-2220

For 40 Years Edelweiss has brought Bavaria to Colorado Springs. Using fresh ingredients. The menu invites you to visit Germany. * Wiener Schnitzel * Brat wurst * Strudels * Jagerschnitzel * Sauerbraten * Black Forest Cherry Torte * Variety of German beers & wines. Reservations accepted. www.edelweissrest.com.

GOURMET

Briarhurst Manor
404 Manitou Ave., M/S
685-1864
briarhurst.com

VOTED TOP 50 MOST ROMANTIC RESTAURNTS* Featuring steaks, game, seafood, poultry, specialty salads & desserts in a beautiful historic Victorian Manor. Visit us online for B'day & Anniv offers. *Opentable.com

Winfield's
442 Bennett Drive
Cripple Creek
719/689-5000

Winfield's Steak House, located in Gold Creek Casino at the Double Eagle Hotel & Casino, offers gourmet dining in a classy atmosphere. Dine in Friday-Sunday 5-10 p.m. Call for reservations 719-689-5034.

IRISH

Jack Quinn's
21 S. Tejon St.
385-0766
jackquinnspub.com

M-F 11a-2a, Sat/Sun 12p-2a, Sun Brunch 12-3p. Colorado Springs favorite authentic Irish Pub. Perfect import drafts, domestics, full bar & the best selection of Irish Whiskeys & Scotches. Live Irish music every Tues, Thurs, Sat & Sun. Happy Hour Daily 3-6 p.m.

ITALIAN

La Bella Vita
4475 Northpark Drive
719-260-4730
www.labellavitaristorante.net

Classic, authentic & traditional Italian dishes. Fine selection of homemade pastas, fresh seafood of the day and wonderful, authentic Italian desserts. M-Th 11-9. Fri 11-10. Sat 4-10

Paravicini's Italian Bistro
2802 W. Colorado Ave.
719-471-8200

Voted "Best Italian" by Indy readers for 6 years in a row. Located in a historic 1895 building this casual Italian eatery. Brings a taste of "little Italy" to Colorado Springs. Featuring Classic Italian dishes as well as Chef Franco's creative originals. Sun-Thurs 11:30-9:00, Fri-Sat. 11:30-10:00

MARTINI BAR

The Paradox Lounge
528 S. Tejon St.
444-8487

Downtown's newest martini, wine, & tapas bar. An excellent selection of wines, mixed drinks & a great tapas menu, with a large selection of martinis for the serious and casual martini drinker. Open Tues. – Sat., located at the southwest corner of the SouthSide Johnny's building.

MEDITERRANEAN

Mediterranean Café
118 E.Kiowa Ave.
633-0115
medcafe-co.com

Hours: Mon. 11am-5pm, Tues.-Sat. 11am-7:30pm. Celebrating 10 years in Colorado Springs. Voted "Best Gyro" by the Independent. Affordable, unique and delicious catering for all your events.

SOUTHWESTERN/MEXICAN

José Muldoon's
222 N. Tejon St.
636-2311
5710 S. Carefree Cr @ Powers
574-5673

Since 1974. Features authentic Tex-Mex & Mexican fare in contemporary Sante Fe-styled establishment. Margaritas, over 50 tequilas & 6 flatscreen HD TV's. Patio, outdoor bar & firepit rooms for up to 80. Across from Acacia Park. Lunch and dinner daily; brunch on Sundays. Josemuldoons.com

SPIRITS

Coaltrain Wine & Spirits
330 W. Uintah
(just east of I-25 on Uintah)
475-9700

Come to Coaltrain for service, knowledge and a selection of wine, beer and spirits that's been second to none in Colorado Springs for nearly 30 years. We host wine, beer and spirits tastings, dinners and classes. Coaltrainwine.com. Mon-Thur 9am-11pm, Fri-Sat 9am-midnight, Sun 11am-7pm. www.coaltrainwine.com

STEAK HOUSE

The Famous
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1779 S. Eighth St., 471-7007, coalminedragon.net

While it's damn confusing that there are two separate restaurants with the exact same name, here's one way to remember this location, as opposed to the one by the King Soopers on Uintah Street: a damn good, damn cheap Chinese lunch buffet.

While not boasting the breadth or depth of some of the other spots in town, the **buffet** ($6.95) at Coal Mine is full of clean flavors that actually offer something besides the thrill of as-much-as-you-can-consume. Mounds of plates and bowls sit under a heater next to a small, unlabeled stretch of foods like tender sesame chicken with an orange zing; crunchy egg foo young patties; dense lo mein; soft, but savory, beef and peppers; and egg rolls packed to the gills with pork and cabbage, which are especially delicious in a sweet-and-sour sauce seemingly laced with cinnamon. — ***Bryce Crawford***

Josh & John's

111 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 632-0299, joshandjohns.com

Nobody needs to tell you who Josh & John's is (local ice cream favorite since '94, yadda yadda ...) or that ice cream generally tastes good. But perhaps it's useful to be reminded that even during ice cream's off-season, Josh & John's adds new features and gathers guest votes on which flavors to serve, including winter favorites like candy cane, eggnog and pumpkin pie.

One newbie: **flavored house hot fudges**, such as a peanut butter fudge, that you can add to any order for 90 cents. I try it over the **Mocha Java Jolt** (cups and cones from $3.95 to $5.05), composed of the regular coffee flavor (made with Folgers), plus added chocolate-covered coffee beans, coffee-flavored chocolate chips and regular fudge. With a topper of fluffy, homemade whipped cream, it's surprisingly not that coffee-dominant, while the peanut butter's tackiness thickens the frozen fudge into a real cud-chewing experience. — ***Matthew Schniper***

Sheldon's Luncheonette

204 Mount View Lane, 599-0887, sheldonslunch.com

The plain, industrial dining room at Sheldon's was buzzing when we stopped by, mostly full of blue-collar types seeking to add some diner to their day. Great vibe, too: More often than not, our server called out customers by their first names, liberally sprinkling her greetings with "Hon" and "Sunshine."

But when it came time to nosh on all that nostalgia, well, let's just say I'd rather listen to the restaurant than eat what we ate: There was just so much white. Watery, white gravy all over the bland **chicken-fried steak** ($8.95) and its white heap of gluey mashed potatoes. Decent white chunks of potato (as well as shadows of carrots) with white chunks of chicken in the see-through, gelatinous glop of the **chicken pot pie** ($7.95). White-bread toast on white bowls next to white napkins. And yet: "Only the best," says the logo on the white back wall. — ***Bryce Crawford***

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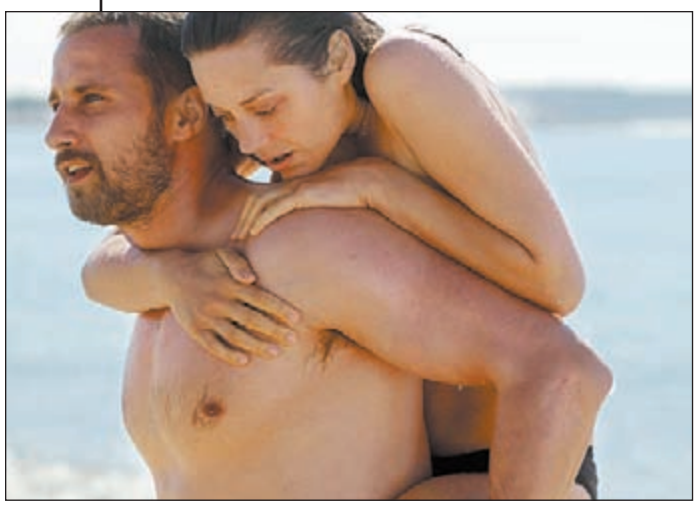
Film

Love impactually

Rust and Bone (R)

By MaryAnn Johanson

Alain is a nightclub bouncer and doer of slightly shady odd jobs. Stéphanie is an orca trainer at a theme-park aquarium whose life is changed forever by a terrible accident. As romances go, they're not exactly a match made in heaven, and their relationship, as it slowly and cagily develops, is barely even romantic. It's more a pragmatic clinging together for creature comfort in the darkness of the ennui of miserable mortal existence than anything approaching a grand passion.



No qualms with the acting on display in Rust and Bone *— just the way the characters are abused beyond belief.*

Not yer typical Hollywood flick, then, but perhaps a fairly French one ...

Its rather depressingly realistic approach to adult relationships is, perhaps ironically, the best reason to see *Rust and Bone*, as hard-edged a drama as you'll get at the multiplex even during Oscar season. The always watchable Marion Cotillard and handsome newcomer Matthias Schoenaerts are intriguingly grim and gritty from the opening moments of the film, when they meet in a way precisely the opposite of a Hollywood meet-cute — it's a meet-ugly, involving sexualized violence and domestic discomfort, and it mostly sets a tone for what's to come, as fate starts throwing personal disasters their way.

Yeah, life sucks, especially for the working poor, even in France (even if some Americans suffer under the delusion that the country is a socialist "paradise" for the less well-off). For here are unexpected looks at a side of France that we do not typically see on film. This is no dreamy tourist's fantasy but a peek into the rather wretched lives of the working class.

Hunger among the workers of France and their families is one narrative thread that stings. Alain's sister has been swiping expired food from the supermarket in which she works, a desperate ploy that backfires on her. Fat-cat employers going out of their way to find reasons to fire low-wage employees is another motif that bites. The unfairness of it all is outrageous, and the grittiness and the tragedy that accrue around Stéphanie and Alain reach a point beyond which it all gets laughably absurd.

And therein are borne the disappointments of the film. Director Jacques Audiard, in a less conventional but also less satisfying follow-up to his crime drama *A Prophet* (*Un Prophète*), cannot help but pile on the misery ... perhaps because he is adhering faithfully to the series of short stories by Canadian writer Craig Davidson upon which this is based.

The overarching theme of "everyone is doing what they can to survive" gets extra wallops with motifs of endemic emotional depression driving mating strategies, muddled themes of social captivity shrinking personal options — in one iteration of that, Alain's young son, who has been traumatized by almost everything in life, likes to hide out in a doghouse — and ultimately one preposterous calamity too many.

It's too all-over-the-place, too intent on cramming as much wretchedness as possible into two hours. It's exhausting, and in no way is that even remotely plausible. Still, it is a bit of a surprise that both Cotillard and Schoenaerts were overlooked for Oscar nominations, except for the fact that the power of their performances are overwhelmed by the somewhat ridiculous soup they're forced to swim in.

Best thing about *Rust and Bone*? We're left with no doubt that Marion Cotillard is a goddess, doubly proven here when she can eschew glamour and still be divine.

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Film

Frumpy old men

Stand Up Guys (R)

By Jonathan Kiefer

Fun fact: Alan Arkin, Al Pacino and Christopher Walken never have been in a movie together. Even now. *Stand Up Guys* doesn't count; it's more like a one-act play, photographed for posterity with notes still scribbled in its margins. Its title is for cliché's sake, but the whole thing just seems to want to lie down for a while, maybe forever.

If geriatric goombah schtick is your bag, you're gonna relish this aged actor fest.

To some extent, the audience for this is self-selecting. Anybody who heard there'd be an Arkin-Pacino-Walken gangster comedy and wasn't already disappointed, probably won't be. That leaves the rest of us wondering how far we ought to keep extending the credit these actors earned in their heyday. The film's most authentic aspect is the unfortunate suggestion that its leads' best days really are behind them.

Pacino gets out of prison after a long stint that might have been shorter if he'd tattled on his pals; Walken, the best of those pals, now has orders to kill him. Who'd give such illogical orders? Only "the meanest, most vindictive motherfucker outside the Devil himself," a crime boss played by Mark Margolis and introduced through a stale series of angry-goombah phone calls. These leave Walken with an hour and a half in which to look like he's procrastinating the decision to euthanize a sickly pet.

While we're supposed to wonder what he'll do, he takes Pacino out for a night of mischief and sentimental wiseguy reminiscence. Needing "to party," they go to a brothel. Needing Viagra, they rob a pharmacy. Needing medical attention for a Viagra overdose, they go to the ER, where the habit of demoting actors into dull parodies of their past personas continues, and Julianna Margulies plays a nurse.

It so happens that her father, Arkin, is the guys' former getaway driver, now withering away in an old-folks' home. They break him out, steal a car and find a naked woman in its trunk, then gallantly abet her brutal revenge on the thugs who put her there. Now and then they pause for steaks and more reminiscence at the all-night diner where a cute young waitress has nothing better to do than adore them. She figures into the plot, preposterously, too.

Spoiler alert: One of the guys dies. It's hard to blame him, given a story not worth sticking around for. We do get that it's supposed to be a last hurrah anyway, and no amount of outrageous pseudo-Tarantino antics can shake off the reflective mood.

Pacino gives off the same frothy babble he's been good for since whenever he became so depressingly easy to imitate. Arkin obviously has a knack for capering, but here he's a blur. Walken comes closest to real dignity, but only when not saying anything.

And we're just supposed to be grateful, too, for the privilege of witnessing this particular power trio noodling together at last. *Stand Up Guys* does at least get us thinking about mortality: Someday there'll be no more old-man dick schtick, or shots looking up at gangsters from inside a car trunk, and then what'll the movies do?

— scene@csindy.com

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	L.A. Weekly	N.Y. Times	Rotten Tomatoes
Django Unchained (R)	Brilliant	Enjoy	Brilliant	Enjoy
Les Miserables (PG-13)	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD	Enjoy	Enjoy
Rust and Bone (R)	Wait for DVD	Enjoy	Brilliant	Brilliant
Stand Up Guys (R)	Lame	Enjoy	Wait for DVD	Wait for DVD
Zero Dark Thirty (R)	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant	Brilliant

KEY: Brilliant · Enjoy · Wait for DVD · Lame

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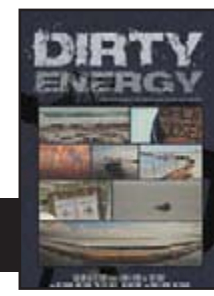

Officer Down (R)

Anchor Bay Home Entertainment

The perpetually disheveled Stephen Dorff is a bad-cop-gone-good who's set up in a Mobius-like figure-eight of double crosses, bad deals and mistaken identities in this gritty police thriller. While it's nowhere near as effective or as evocative as any of the last five David Ayer flicks, it's still a watchable, surprising documentation of the downfall of someone actually trying to do good. Dorff gives a subtle, if unwashed, performance as Callahan, a dirty detective who, when a bullet was bopped into his gut a year ago, realized he finally had a second chance and devoted it to being a better police officer (and family man, natch). But when his demons come back to haunt him, he finds himself down the same dark path, with even more disastrous results. Featuring an all-star cast that includes Dominic Purcell and James Woods, *Officer Down* will do the trick until *End of Watch* hits Redbox. ***— Louis Fowler***

Seven Psychopaths (R)

Sony

Irish director-screenwriter Martin McDonagh has a beautiful way with words and isn't one to mince them. Until now, he's made one feature, the enormously satisfying *In Bruges*, and one short film. Each earned an Oscar nomination. So it's natural to wonder if it's a tad early for him to unleash his inside-baseball jab at the film industry. But he's made a marvel with *Seven Psychopaths*, which is also the title of the unwritten (yet already optioned and past deadline) screenplay-within-the-movie, to be penned by Colin Farrell's pompous Marty. Only a confident writer could treat this idea-stealing, alcoholic protagonist with so much patience. To put some meat on his script's bones, Marty meets with genuine psychopaths and becomes entangled in a darkly madcap web of violence, played full-tilt by the likes of Christopher Walken, Sam Rockwell, Tom Waits and Woody Harrelson. ***— Justin Strout***

Dirty Energy (NR)

Cinema Libre

Many people consider our up-to-the-minute news-cycle an informational godsend that benefits society by keeping us continually informed about events in the world, and often one step ahead of what's going to happen. But the problem is that some of the most important stories are easily swept under the rug and completely forgotten as soon as the next big story comes along. Case in point: the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, better known as the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. This documentary focuses on the personal struggles of the fishermen, families and workers who not only lived through the oil spill, but continue to struggle (even as some others who were exposed to the chemicals start to die off). Most of us saw the pictures and were concerned about the environmental impact to marine life, but *Dirty Energy* shows you that the human toll is becoming even worse. ***— Louis Fowler***

AudioFile

Core values

Hatebreed keeps its metal and punk influences intact

By Chris Parker

If you know Hatebreed, you probably recognize them when you hear them. They haven't so much created a unique sound as carved out a peculiar niche at the intersection of hardcore and metal.

Clay Patrick McBride

'We're more the AC/DC or Motörhead of our time,' says Novinec. 'That's what people expect from Hatebreed.'

You can hear the influence of thrash in the serrated metal guitar chug, while the vocals scream punk, both in their hectoring sloganeering and socio-political bent.

"People argue if Hatebreed is metal or hardcore. It's simple: We're neither. We're a crossover band," says Hatebreed guitarist Frank Novinec, whose previous bands included Terror, Ringworm, and Integrity. "We've broken into the metal scene more than any other act from the hardcore scene that I can remember. And it's a fine line that we walk when we make songs and down to deciding what T-shirt to wear."

Novinec is speaking from Stuttgart, Germany, where the band's current tourmates speak to that balancing act. They're out with punkers H2O, hardcore legends Agnostic Front, German power/death metal act Neaera, and alt-metal vets the Acacia Strain. Of course, such tours are a little easier in Europe, where there tends to be a greater sense of common purpose.

"Over here you have a lot more unity amongst the scenes. I think that, in the States, the younger kids are blinded by imagery and things besides the music," says Novinec, who joined Hatebreed in 2006. "Nowadays you have all these subgenres and division amongst the scene. We just try to keep it tight and bring it all together. It's all aggressive music at the end of the day. That's what it is."

The Connecticut-born quintet is entering its 19th year and supporting its seventh studio full-length, *Divinity of Purpose*. The album follows their twin 2009 releases, the fine covers collection, *For the Lions*, and a more experimental self-titled album. For that one, they tinkered with the pace, slowing it down and finding room for greater melody. By comparison, the new album's a back-to-basics release — as much as you can say that about Hatebreed.

"It's definitely more meat and potatoes," Novinec says. "We try not to stray too far from the formula. If it's not broken why try to fix it? We're more the AC/DC or Motörhead of our time. That's what people expect from Hatebreed.

"But we're able to make it fresh and that's what's important. Obviously a hardcore band that's been going at it so long, you always want to breathe some fresh air into the balloon."

One burst of fresh air came in the wake of longtime guitarist Sean Martin's 2009 departure. The band brought back founding guitarist Wayne Lozinak, who'd been gone for more than a dozen years. Lozinak rejoined original members singer Jamey Jasta and bassist Chris Beattie.

"He's really an awesome person and an amazing guitar player," says Novinec. "He'd left the band and years later, when the band blew up, he ended up teching for us. Now he's back in the band and he's come full circle."

Meanwhile, fans are also onboard, keeping Hatebreed alive for close to two decades.

"I'm just really happy that we continue to be a force after the way the Internet has wiped out the music industry," Novinec says. "Fortunately the younger kids are able to get into the older bands, to school themselves on the roots of this music and take it from there."

— scene@csindy.com

CAPSULE

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REVERB

BY BILL FORMAN

While Colorado Springs has found its way into hundreds of ***Christianity Today*** articles, the **Black Sheep** has never had the honor. At least not until two weeks ago, when **Father John Misty**'s show at the local all-ages venue was the subject of a 1,200-word critique.

Thanks to Father John Misty, the Black Sheep has finally gotten due recognition from the folks at Christianity Today.

In "We Will, We Will Mock You," Springs-based writer **Patton Dodd** took well-written exception to frontman **Josh Tillman**'s onstage ridiculing of our city's hard-earned evangelical reputation, **James Dobson**'s enduring legacy, and the former **Fleet Foxes** member's own religious upbringing.

"I tend to binge on new music discoveries until I'm sick of them," confessed Dodd, "but the Father John Misty album has only improved with near-constant play. Until that Saturday night, that is. *Fear Fun* sounds vapid to me now, because the artist behind it suggested that he is a vapid man." Or, as Dodd tweeted the morning after, "Kinda wish I had not seen Father John Misty in concert last night, b/c now I can't like his music anymore. Smug, pretentious, unfunny shtick."

Given how my *Christianity Today* subscription somehow lapsed without my noticing, I might never have seen the story had the singer not made fun of it onstage at Father John Misty's **Ogden Theatre** show last week.

"Sadly, I kind of agree with this guy," commented Black Sheep soundman **Chris Forsythe** after reading Dodd's article online. "Father John seemed almost miffed to have to be performing in such a backwoods hillbilly hellhole. I'm not Christian by any stretch of the imagination, but I groaned the first time he brought up Dobson. I play in a death metal band and we don't even bother making fun of **Focus on the Family** anymore."

The venue's site is overrun with photos of deer humping zebras, dogs and each other.

But that didn't sour Forsythe on what he felt was a fine show. While Dodd may have treated it as an act of personal betrayal, Tillman's contempt is much more equal-opportunity and often self-directed. "I don't even know who this person I'm talking about IS anymore," he ranted during an *Indy* interview back in October. "He sounds like an asshole. He sounds like a fucking blowhard. I HATE him."

Be that as it may, the adoration of the kids pressed up against the Black Sheep stage made it clear that Tillman's ironic persona only adds to his pop-star mystique. As **Howlin' Wolf** famously sang, "The men don't know, but the little girls understand." (Note to the less sensitive among us: Father John Misty has just announced a new tour, including a June 18 show at the Ogden.)

Meanwhile, I can't say for sure where **Mike Clark & the Sugar Sounds** resides on *Christianity Today*'s hit list, but I *can* vouch for the fact that Friday's album release show at the **Loft** was completely packed. As you might guess, most of the set was given over to songs from the band's Blank Tape debut album, *Round and Round*, which we got into in last week's column.

But there's a lot more where those songs came from: The group already has 45 original songs under its belt, with 10 recorded for a follow-up release. Friday's performance of "I Can't Shake It," for instance, boasted a quirky **David Byrne**-style vocal that just might be the catchiest thing the local musician has done since his viral hit "Daisy," which also found its way into the set.

You can catch another Sugar Sounds show Friday at **Deer Pile**, a newish Denver venue whose website is overrun with photos of deer humping zebras, dogs and each other. Recently named "Best New Community Space" by ***Westword***, Deer Pile will also be hosting the Colorado debut of **Denver Broncos UK**, an intriguing new **Slim Cessna's Auto Club** side-project, on Thursday. (SCAC, meanwhile, plays **South Moe's** in Englewood the following evening.) Following the Denver date, Mike Clark ships out for a month-long solo tour in the company of videographer **Kevin Ihle**, who'll be tagging along to document the shows.

Speaking of which, former **Reverb** columnist **Adam Leech** has launched a new **Kickstarter** site to help fund his own documentary, ***A Nickel and a Nail: The Original Hobo Nickel Story***. He's inviting local musicians to drop off CDs for soundtrack consideration at the **Leechpit** (802 N. Nevada Ave.). So far, the **Haunted Windchimes**, the **Flumps** and **El Toro de la Muerte** are on board, along with out-of-town talents **Kimya Dawson, Nathen Maxwell** and **Mini Mansions**. If all goes well, the film chronicling Mr. Leech's hitchhiking venture to a Florida nickel-carving auction should be ready for summer release.

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/indyreverb.

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, JAN. 30, THROUGH TUESDAY, FEB. 5

Wednesday 01/30

Black Sheep, *The Overseer, Fit for a King (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., $10-$12.
Club Q, *Open Mic Night,* 10 p.m.
Frankie's, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.
Front Range, *EverGreen Grass Band (bluegrass),* 7:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Brian Parton (Americana),* 7 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Open Mic Night (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5, free for jammers.
Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Rawbert & I (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *'80s Dance Nite, hosted by DJ Monster Mike (dance),* 9 p.m.

Thursday 01/31

Adam's, *Eric Earley (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.
Ancient Mariner, *Open Mic with Stolen Idol Productions (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.
Benny's, *Open Mic with the Jerry Roskin Band,* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Iration, Passafire, Pacific Dub* (world), 7 p.m., $15.
Jack Quinn's, *Brian Clancy (world),* 7:30 p.m.
The Loft, *Jared Anderson Lamp Show (indie),* 8 p.m., $10-$15.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Doug and Rob Acoustic Favorites (acoustic),* 6:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Stimulus1 (indie),* 8 p.m., *DJ Tony G (dance),* 9 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Shane Goothof (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Motif, *Joe Uveges (jazz),* 7:15 p.m.
Park East, *Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Rico's, *Susan Rissman and Tribe (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Ritz, *DJ Ron Perry (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.

Friday 02/01

Ancient Mariner, *Vagabond Swing (indie),* 8:30 p.m.
Benny's, *Rocky Gene Wallace and Brickyard (blues),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Pennywise (rock/pop),* 7 p.m., $24.99-$25.
Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Cleats, *Famous Curve (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Casey James Prestwood and the Burning Angels*

VENUE DIRECTORY

Adam's Mountain Café, 934 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-1430
Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979
Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267
Club Q, 3430 N. Academy Blvd., 570-1429
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900
Dale Street Café, 115 E. Dale St., 578-9898
Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128
The Loft, 2506 W. Colorado Ave., 445-9278
Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
Meadow Muffins, 2432 W. Colorado Ave., 633-0583
MoodSwings Acoustic Lounge, 696 N. Circle Drive, 201-2592
Motif, 2432 Cucharras St., 635-5635
Nature and Raptor Center of Pueblo, 5200 Nature Center Road, Pueblo, 719/549-2414

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

(country), 8 p.m.
Cucuru, *Rico Southee (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.
Dale Street Café, *John Wise (jazz),* 6 p.m.
Fujiyama, *Barbara Ernst/Mistura Bela (world),* 7 p.m.
Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B),* 9 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Swallowtail World Music (world),* 6:30 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *The Justice League (blues),* 9 p.m. *DJ Mortekai (dance),* 9 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Doug Roebuck (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Motif, *Camilla Formica featuring Bijoux Barbosa (jazz),* 7:45 p.m., $10 minimum.
Nature and Raptor Center, *Gary Bennett, "The Human Jukebox" (rock/pop),* 5 p.m.
Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Polito's Beer Barrel, *Cari Dell Trio (blues),* 8 p.m.
Rawkus, *David Seied, CacheFlow, Caustic (dance),* 8 p.m.
Rico's, *Adam Gang Jazz Trio (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.
The Sky Box Lounge, *Jeff "Fitty" Smith (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SoDo, *N R G Friday, with DJ GÜ* (dance), 8 p.m., $10.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Nolan McInnis Band (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Speedtrap, *Brian Parton (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Sunshine Studios, *Phinehas, Forsake It All (metal),* $10.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Townhouse, *Jamaican Eclipse (world),* 9 p.m.
Triple Nickel, *Still Valley, Rhogog, Ashen Embers (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Ute Inn, *One Eleven (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *Conjugal Visits, 99 Bottles, Potato Pirates, Straight Outta Luck (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $5.

Saturday 02/02

Ancient Mariner, *Jesse Cottonstone Band (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Benny's, *40 oz. Freedom Fighters (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Kraddy, Ana Sia (dance),* 8 p.m., $12-$14.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Michael Reese Band (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Cucuru, *Dave Day Jazz Trio (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.
Frankie's, *Suga' Bear & The Show Time Band (R&B),* 8 p.m.
Fujiyama, *DJ Ron Perry (jazz),* 6 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Neon Sound Festival (rock/pop),* 9:30 p.m.
The Loft, *Esther Sparks & the Whiskey Remedy (indie),* 7 p.m., $7-$10.
Meadow Muffins, *DJ Tony G (dance),* 9 p.m., *Chauncy Crandall & the Rocket Flies (indie),* 9 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Doug Roebuck (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Motif, *Wayne Wilkinson (jazz),* 7:45 p.m., $10 minimum.

BigGigs

Ana Sia will bring her mix of dubstep and 'global slut psy-hop' to the Black Sheep this Saturday.

The Overseer, Black Sheep, Jan. 30 • **Styx**, Paramount Theatre, Denver, Jan. 30 • **Iration**, Black Sheep, Jan. 31 • **The Darkness**, Summit Music Hall, Denver, Feb. 1 • **Ellie Goulding**, Ogden Theatre, Denver, Feb. 1 • **Pennywise**, Black Sheep, Feb. 1 • **RJD2**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Feb. 1 • ***Winter on the Rocks*, with Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, Major Lazer**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, Feb. 1 • **Kraddy, Ana Sia**, Black Sheep, Feb. 2 • **Agent Orange**, Phil's Radiator, Pueblo, Feb. 3 • **Hatebreed**, Black Sheep, Feb. 5 • **Chingy**, SoDo Night Club, Feb. 7 • **The Growlers**, Black Sheep, Feb. 7 • **Ken Stringfellow**, Moe's Original Bar B Que, Englewood, Feb. 7 • **Fred Hersch**, Dazzle Restaurant and Lounge, Denver, Feb. 7-8 • **Willy Porter**, Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, Palmer Lake, Feb. 8 • **Royal Southern Brotherhood**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Feb. 8 • **Listener**, Black Sheep, Feb. 9 • **Victor Wooten**, Cervantes' Masterpiece Ballroom, Denver, Feb. 9 • **El Ten Eleven**, Black Sheep, Feb. 10 • **The Who**, Pepsi Center, Denver, Feb. 12 • **OM**, Larimer Lounge, Denver, Feb. 13 • **The Rouge**, Black Sheep, Feb. 13 • **Carrie Underwood**, World Arena, Feb. 13 • **Monophonics**, Black Sheep, Feb. 14 • **Hot Club of San Francisco**, Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, Pueblo, Feb. 15 • **Marcia Ball**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, Feb. 15 • **Mod Sun**, Black Sheep, Feb. 15 • **twenty | one | pilots**, Black Sheep, Feb. 16 • **James McMurtry**, The Loft, Feb. 17 • **Michael Johnson**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, Feb. 17 • **The Steepwater Band**, Black Sheep, Feb. 17 • **Stone Sour, Papa Roach**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, Feb. 17 • **Gold Fields**, Black Sheep, Feb. 19 • **Morrissey**, Buell Theatre, Denver, Feb. 21 • ***Rock & Worship Roadshow*, with MercyMe, Jeremy Camp, Tedashii**, World Arena, Feb. 21 • **Western Underground**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, Feb. 22 • **Savoy**, Boulder Theater, Boulder, Feb. 23 • **Toro y Moi**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, Feb. 23 • **Passion Pit**, 1STBANK Center, Broomfield, March 1 • **PANTyRAID**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 2 • **Adrian Legg**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 10 • **Curtis Salgado**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, March 15 • **Altan**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, March 16 • **Vagabond Opera**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, March 16 • **Tech N9ne**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 22 • **Imagine Dragons**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, March 23 • **Candye Kane**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, March 23 • **Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band, Joe Walsh**, Pepsi Center, Denver, April 2 • **Alt-J**, Bluebird Theater, Denver, April 3 • **Bad Religion**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 10 • **The Doobie Brothers**, Pikes Peak Center, April 10 • **Moses Jones**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, April 10 • **Bullet for My Valentine**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 12 • **Big Bill Morganfield**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, April 13 • **Peter Yarrow**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, April 13 • **Miranda Lambert, Dierks Bentley**, Comfort Dental Amphitheatre, Englewood, May 18 • **Buddy Whittington with the Atomic Fireballs**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, May 31 • **Fleetwood Mac**, Pepsi Center, Denver, June 1 • **Taylor Swift**, Pepsi Center, Denver, June 2 • **The xx**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, June 3 • **Sting**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, June 5 •

Penrose Room, *Penrose Room Trio with Lila Mori (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Rico's, *Mango Fan Django (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.
Sky Box Lounge, *The Reid Holmes Invitational "Live Music Jam" (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Townhouse, *The Luke Ellington Blues Band (blues),* 9 p.m.
Triple Nickel, *The Atom Age, Filthy Still, Disguise the Spy (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $5.
Union Station, *Neighborhood Bully (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.

Sunday 02/03

Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world),* 3 p.m.
Retired Enlisted Association, *Blues Jam with the Tracy Quinn Band (rock/pop),* 3 p.m.
Tavern at The Broadmoor, *Tavern Orchestra with Lewis Mock (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Tony's, *Sunday Shenanigans, with NateStarr and TaylorLee (dance),* 9:30 p.m.

Monday 02/04

Zodiac, *Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone,* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 02/05

Black Sheep, *Hatebreed, Shadows Fall, Dying Fetus (hardcore),* 6 p.m., $25.
Townhouse, *Open Mic (acoustic),* 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *Goth Nite with DJ Johnny Coffin (dance),* 9 p.m.

Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655
Penrose Room at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5773
Phil's Radiator, 109 E. C St., Pueblo, 719/584-2671
Polito's Beer Barrel, 2113 E. Evans Ave., Pueblo, 719/564-9915
Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000
Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927
Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549
Ritz Grill, 15 S. Tejon St., 635-8484
The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St., 634-4815
SoDo Night Club, 527 S. Tejon St., 314-0420
Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222
SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487
Speedtrap, 84 State Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 488-2007
Sunshine Studios, 3970 Clearview Frontage Road, 392-8921
Tavern at The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 577-5772
Tony's Bar, 311 N. Tejon St., 228-6566
Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085
Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555
Union Station, 2419 N. Union Blvd., 227-7168
Ute Inn, 204 W. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 687-1465
V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599
Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

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THE BEN MILLER BAND - MAR 16 (ON SALE NOW)
AIR DUBAI - MAR 28 (ON SALE FRI)
ADRENALINE MOB - APR 1 (ON SALE FRI)
VOODOO GLOW SKULLS - APR 20 (ON SALE FRI)
Wed, Jan. 30th - 7:00pm
THE OVERSEER
FIT FOR A KING, FORSAKE IT ALL, ALL PROMISES ASIDE
Thu, Jan. 31st - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP AND INDEPENDENT RECORDS
IRATION
PASSAFIRE, PACIFIC DUB
Fri, Feb. 1st - 7:00pm
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DISGUISE THE SPY, PITCH INVASION
Sat, Feb. 2nd - 8:00pm
KRADDY
ANA SIA
Tue, Feb. 5th - 6:00pm
HATEBREED
SHADOWS FALL, DYING FETOS, THE CONTORTIONIST, VITAL MALICE
Thu, Feb 7th - 8:00pm
THE GROWLERS
DRUG FLOWERS, BAD WEATHER CALIFORNIA
Fri, Feb. 8th - 8:00pm
CHARLIE MILO TRIO
STONEY BERTZ, MADE UP MINDS, MAD TREES, ANIMUS INVIDIOUS VS DJ GRAVITY, & MORE!
Sat, Feb. 9th - 7:30pm
LISTENER
SOUND STUDIES, THE GREAT HOTEL FIRE, TWO TONE WOLF PACK
Sun, Feb. 10th - 8:00pm
EL TEN ELEVEN
SLOW MAGIC, PETER ROBOT
Wed, Feb. 13th - 8:00pm
THE ROUGE
THE MYTH OF MODERN MEDICINE
Thu, Feb. 14th - 8:00pm
MONOPHONICS
ROUGH AGE, MARK'S MIDNIGHT CARNIVAL SHOW
Fri, Feb. 15th - 8:00pm
MOD SUN
CISCO ADLER, TAYYIB ALI, PAT BROWN
UPCOMING EVENTS
FEB 16 - TWENTY ONE PILOTS
FEB 17 - THE STEEPWATER BAND
FEB 19 - GOLD FIELDS
FEB 21 - 10 YEARS
FEB 22 - BALLYHOO!
FEB 24 - NATTY VIBES
FEB 25 - TREMONTI
FEB 27 - DARK TIME SUNSHINE
MAR 2 - AVATAR
MAR 5 - SUMERIAN RECORDS BATTLE OF THE BANDS
MAR 8 - CURRENT SWELL
MAR 9 - THE DIRTY HEADS, SHINY TOY GUNS
MAR 10 - SALVADOR SANTANA
MAR 11 - THE SWINGIN UTTERS
MAR 16 - THE BEN MILLER BAND
MAR 18 - CLUTCH
MAR 19 - PAPER BIRD
MAR 28 - AIR DUBAI
APR 1 - ADRENALINE MOB
APR 2 - MINUS THE BEAR
APR 3 & 4 - AS | LAY DYING, THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
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AudioFile

Life after Dizz Knee Land

Two decades on, fans continue to make room for dada

By L. Kent Wolgamott

CAPSULE

Dada, with Jerad Finck and 7Horse

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 8 p.m.

Bluebird Theater, 3317 E. Colfax Ave., Denver

Tickets: $25/adv, $30/door, 16-plus; bluebirdtheater.net, 303/377-1666.

For the L.A. band dada, it all began with the acoustic duo of Michael Gurley and Joie Calio deciding they wanted to rock. "We come out of the Beatles, the Stones, the good rock bands," recalls guitarist and co-lead vocalist Gurley. "But we're also big fans of instrumentalists, of guys like John Lee Hooker, B.B. King and Jeff Beck."

'They didn't blow up,' says Gurley of dada's early drummers, 'but they didn't last long.'

But it took a while to make the transformation that led to the band's hooky, harmony-laden debut album, *Puzzle*, and its engagingly droll breakthrough single "Dizz Knee Land" ("I just tossed a fifth of gin / Now I'm going to Dizz Knee Land / I just got cuffed again / Now I'm going to Dizz Knee Land").

"We probably went through seven or eight drummers in a six-month span. It was kind of Spinal Tap-ish," recalls Gurley. "They didn't blow up, but they didn't last long."

All that changed when Phil Leavitt auditioned. "We started jamming in E. It just sounded powerful and there was space. We pulled it back down, got soft and built it back up again. We went on for eight, nine minutes. Then it was, 'Whatever that was, it works.'"

And so was born dada, a trio now celebrating the 20th anniversary of *Puzzle* with a 34-show, 41-day tour. And true to that first jam session, the group's shows have steadily built to the point where they can be Springsteenian in length, a dramatic contrast with their early live shows.

"When *Puzzle* came out, as a band, we had 12 songs and a cover," says Gurley. "Our set was 75 minutes, max. Now it's open ended. There's a lot of improvisation in it now. Over the years, we've become something of a jam band onstage."

But it was that less expansive dada that attracted producer Ken Scott. One of the handful of engineers who worked with the Beatles, Scott had gone on to become the much-revered producer of artists like David Bowie, Supertramp and Devo when he first introduced himself to dada.

"He came up to us after a show and said 'I'd like to record you guys,'" Gurley says. "But you'll have to sign something that says if this helps you get a record deal, I get to do the record.' For us it was, 'Hell yeah, Ken Scott!'"

The recordings the band did with Scott led to a deal with I.R.S. Records and a debut album that became a hit right out of the box. Gurley believes the band was lucky to come along when it did.

"I really like the fact that we came up at a time when there were A&R guys and record companies that would develop a band," Gurley says. "They would take a baby band — remember that term? — and let you develop."

Dada's last major label release, a self-titled album, came out on MCA in 1998, about the time Gurley figures labels started to crumble. A couple of indie albums followed, and future recordings — Gurley promises there will be at least one — are also likely to be released independently.

Meanwhile, the band continues to tour steadily. With the vast majority of its early '90s contemporaries long gone, Gurley's happy his band beat the odds.

"It's like one of out of 50, I'd guess. We're tight as friends, and we really enjoy playing together. We know that, no matter what, this is probably the best thing we'll ever do."

— scene@csindy.com

SoundAdvice

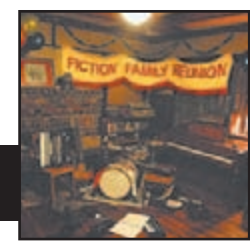
Trixie Whitley

Fourth Corner

Strong Blood Records

File next to: Alicia Keys, ZZ Ward

Brooklyn's Trixie Whitley makes a good impression with her full-length alternative soul debut, *Fourth Corner*. She's equal parts Alicia Keys, Pink and Christina Aguilera when it comes to her vocal chops. Add a dash of ZZ Ward's genre-bending sensibilities, and the album is filled with variety and surprises. The downtempo "Morelia" features hypnotic piano strains and simple acoustic guitar chords as her vocals aim for the heavens, but then "Hotel No Name" uses spoken-word stylings in some sections to keep you paying attention. Bluesy riffs on "Need Your Love" add another dimension to the project; the moody, ambient keys of the R&B-flavored "Pieces" will put you in an introspective mood; and "Irene" uses eerie aesthetics and off-kilter percussion to make the hair on your neck stand up. Whitley misses the mark a few times with overly exuberant vocals, but on the whole *Fourth Corner* is a notable debut. ***— Brian Palmer***



Fiction Family

Fiction Family Reunion

Rock Ridge Music

File next to: Switchfoot, Nickel Creek

After successfully mixing their respective rock 'n roll and bluegrass folk leanings in Fiction Family's self-titled 2009 debut, Jon Foreman and Sean Watkins are back with their sweet sophomore release, *Fiction Family Reunion*. Foreman probes the depths of love, struggle and life's many unknowns in the first single "Up Against the Wall," while the rocking "Give Me Back My Girl" sounds like a B-side from Switchfoot's *Hello Hurricane* sessions. Watkins holds his own on the lively pop number "Guilt" and the more serious "Damaged," but nowhere does this duo shine more brightly than on "God Badge," where they both offer thoughts with respect to religion: "Put your God badge down / And love someone / Let it free your soul / There is no Us and Them / There's only folks that you do or don't understand." Whether singing about the sacred or the silly, Foreman and Watkins make this a reunion worth having. ***— Brian Palmer***

Eberhard Weber

Résumé

ECM

File next to: Ron Carter, Jan Garbarek

German jazz label ECM has made valiant attempts recently to jumpstart the emotional heights it reached during its glory years. Back in the late '70s and throughout the '80s, the label was considered the acoustic downtempo source for oddness beyond art-punk, serving as home to young turks like Keith Jarrett and Jan Garbarek. Now ECM is trying to attract new audiences with repackages of existing and current works by mainstays like Eberhard Weber, whose *Résumé* is the first of several collections set for 2013 release. The album consists of live pieces the bassist performed from 1990 to 2007 as part of the Jan Garbarek Group. At times, these snippets sound too fragmentary to capture the essence of how the two musicians work together. But at its best on transcendent pieces like "Amsterdam" and "Grenoble," *Résumé* underscores the relevance that Weber and his ECM peers continue to wield in the 21st century. ***— Loring Wirbel***

AudioFile

The Darkness visible

Justin Hawkins surveys the remains of the day

By Tom Lanham

Justin Hawkins swears that, in his native Britain, there's one sure telltale sign you've fallen from grace in the entertainment industry. And that's when the reality TV show producers start ringing you up. Persistently.

Hawkins contemplates the escalating cost of fame: 'My dignity? My soul? There's very little left of that already.'

The Darkness frontman knew his fortunes had taken a turn for the worse in 2006, after he reportedly had blown £150,000 in three years on cocaine. He entered the Priory rehab, leaving behind his BRIT-Award-winning glam-metal quartet as well as his frustrated brother, Dan Hawkins, who's also the band's guitarist. But he didn't know how bad things had gotten until he was offered a slot on *I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!*

"And they ask me every year," says the singer, whose charismatic banshee wail was first heard on the 2003 Darkness debut *Permission to Land,* and its flagship hit single "I Believe in a Thing Called Love." "The first time they asked me, it was quite a lot of money. And the second time they asked me, it was slightly less money. So I'm waiting for the day when they ask me to pay to be on there."

CAPSULE

The Darkness, with Hell or High Water

Friday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m.

Summit Music Hall, 1902 Blake St., Denver

Tickets: $25/adv, $28/door, all ages; sodajerkpresents.com, 303/487-0111.

The British version of *Big Brother* puts in regular requests, too, and Hawkins figures he could stand a good chance of winning.

"But at what cost, though?" he sighs. "My dignity? My soul? There's very little left of that already."

Hawkins even got a tattoo on his shoulder to forever remind him of everything he'd been through. "It's the space shuttle," he says of the tat's design, "because it took off, went really well, and then it exploded and killed everyone on board."

Even so, Hawkins patched things up with his sibling to the point where they started co-writing songs for their reconvened band's third album, Bob-Ezrin-mixed *Hot Cakes.* His voice and canny ear for Queen-sized hooks are undiminished on celebratory, often autobiographical rock anthems like "Living Each Day Blind," "Everybody Have a Good Time," "Nothin's Gonna Stop Us," and the falsetto-squealing opener "Every Inch of You," on which the singer looks back on his turbulent career and marvels at his sudden turn of good luck.

Surveying his career with sober eyes, Hawkins says it wasn't show business that corrupted him — he'd already had a decadent bent. "I knew at the beginning what I was letting myself in for, and I actually embraced it. I can tell you for a fact that I was completely off my face when we recorded the *first* album. So we're not talking about something that's fame-related — we're talking about an illness that's been in me since Day One."

Eventually, Hawkins' phone began to ring with offers of the non-reality show variety. He nabbed film roles, in *Psychosis* and the Joe Meek biopic *Telstar,* in which he played Screaming Lord Sutch. He started producing acts like Saving Aimee and Foxy Shazam. And demand for his songs grew again, from artists like Adam Lambert, Steel Panther and Meat Loaf. Last year, he was even featured in a Samsung Super Bowl XLVI commercial, reprising his signature "Thing Called Love."

At 37, Hawkins is still as limber and acrobatic as ever onstage, the only visible difference being a twirly new Musketeer-ish moustache. "It's the secret to successful recovery!" he cackles. But he's seriously grateful, just to be alive. "And that's what I always ask myself – 'How come I'm not dead?' Maybe one day I'll find out the answer."

— scene@csindy.com

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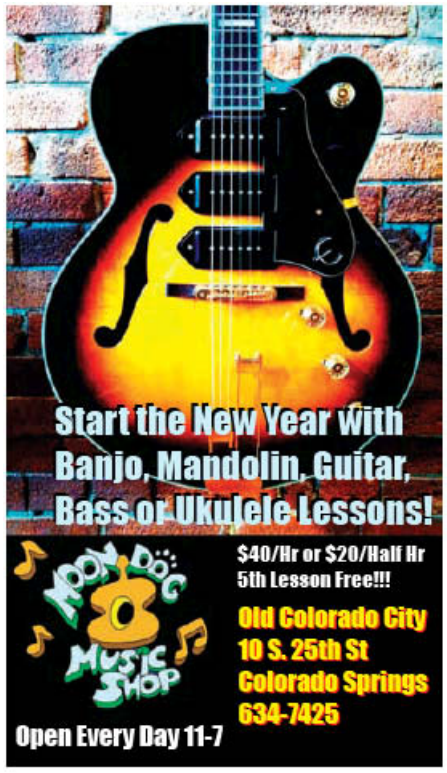

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Listings

PICK Indicates our recommendations for this week.

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

ArtEvents

Bemis School of Art classes, offering a variety of courses for all ages on topics such as: drawing, painting, ceramics, bookmaking, digital arts, leather crafting and more. Bemis School of Art, 818 Pelham Place, 475-2444, csfineartscenter.org.

Big Picture Discussion Group, join others to talk about art and spirituality. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, tinyurl.com/cs6lo26.

Celebrate Youth in the Arts, a breakfast benefiting the Colorado Springs Youth Symphony Association and Colorado Springs Children's Chorale. RSVP by Feb. 3 for the Feb. 14, 7:30 a.m., event. Antlers Hilton, 4 S. Cascade Ave., 633-3562, antlers.com.

Cottonwood Center for the Arts classes, offering courses on topics including: painting, drawing, art marketing, writing, digital media, mixed media and more. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com.

Fare Bella classes, offering classes on topics such as: snowscapes, creating mood, watercolor batik, playing with textures and more. $55-$65. Fare Bella Studio and Gallery, 16 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs, 720/226-4315.

First Friday, a look at wearable art designs from Kathleen Reed, and photography from David Bredemeier. Fri., Feb. 1, 5 p.m. Cottonwood on Tejon, 214½ N. Tejon St., cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com.

First Friday Art Walk — Pueblo, monthly art celebrations encompassing the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, multiple galleries, a handful of coffee shops and other businesses. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Downtown Pueblo, Union Avenue, pueblopag.org.

The Jewelry, Chocolate, Champagne Show, an evening of live jazz, local artists showing off their new jewelry collections, and swank refreshments and door prizes for attendees. Sat., Feb. 2, noon to 5 p.m. Mountain Living Studio, 741 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-0225, mountainlivingstudio.com.

PICK **Prologue Series: Modern Art Round Table,** as part of TheatreWorks' production of *Red*, a play about Mark Rothko, members of the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs' art history department, professors Elissa Auther and Suzanne MacAulay, along with director of the Clyfford Still Museum, Dean Sobel, will discuss abstract expressionism and modern art. Sun., Feb. 3, 2:30 p.m. Free. UCCS' Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater, 3955 Regent Circle, 255-3232, theatreworkscs.org.

Sheppard Art Institute classes, offering a variety of classes such as: pastels, African mask-making, beginning drawing, oil and acrylic painting and more. First Presbyterian Church, 219 E. Bijou St., 282-2706, sheppardartinstitute.org.

PICK **"Women in Combat: A Conversation with Female Soldiers,"** a panel discussion with women from the military, who will share their experiences, from the battle ground to the chores of daily life serving in the armed forces. Wed., Jan. 30, 6:30 p.m. Free. CC's Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

ArtExhibits

Academy Frame Company, 7620 N. Academy Blvd., 265-6694, academyframeco.com. *Ranches, Barns and Homesteads*, an exhibition of photography and paintings.

Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org. *Generations*, a series of multimedia works from four generations of women from one family, including BAC artist LuDel Deal Walter. Through March 4. *Earth Works*, work called "Earth pigment paintings" from local artist Audrey Gray. Through March 9.

CC's Coburn Gallery, Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6606, theideaspace.com. *Basim Magdy: How to Build an Invisible Monument*, a solo show by this Middle Eastern artist, who works in multiple media to alter "entrenched cultural views" and play with notions of irony and absurdity. Through March 8.

PICK **Commonwheel Artists Co-op,** 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com. *Display It Again*, a "secondary art market" for collectors to sell pieces they have previously acquired but no longer have room to display. Feb. 1-25. Opening reception Fri., Feb. 1, 5-8 p.m.

Dogtooth Coffee Company, 505 E. Columbia St., 632-0125, dogtoothcoffee.com. *Collages by Dave Armstrong*, a solo show by Armstrong that includes works from his series based on the myth of Orpheus, a project now 25 years in the

PICK **Cottonwood Center for the Arts,** 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com/cajun-and-carnival/. *Cajun and Carnival*, an all-media juried show on the theme of Mardi Gras. Through Feb. 8.

making. Through March 1.

GOCA 1420 at UCCS, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 255-3567, galleryuccs.org. *styrobot: nothing comes from nothing*, a solo show by Michael Salter for which he has built a giant meditating robot out of collected pieces of foam packing material. Through March 22.

I.D.E.A. Space at Colorado College, Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6066, theideaspace.com. *American Qur'an*, an exhibit of paintings depicting Los Angeles artist Sandow Birk's modern interpretation of the Muslim holy book. Through March 12.

Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org. *Celebration of Black*, an exhibition of the photography of Jana, who has shot prominent performers like Chaka Khan and Bootsy Collins. Opening reception, Fri., Feb. 1, 6 p.m. Free.

Mediterranean Cafe, 118 E. Kiowa St., 633-0115, oddmosis.net. *Neon Wilderness*, an exhibition of paintings "exploring the nature of wildlife through color." Through Feb. 18.

Penrose Library, 20 N. Cascade Ave., 531-6333, ppld.org. In Our Own Backyard: Remembering Historic Fires of the Pikes Peak Region, an exhibition of photography looking at various destructive fires in the area. Find photos from Eric Wulfsberg, Tracey Goodale, Dan Shelley, and Warren and Linda Pearce, who lost their home in the Waldo Canyon Fire. Through Aug. 31.

Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org. *Battle Portraits: Wounded Lions Wounded Lambs*, a presentation by local artist Laura Ben-Amots' years-long project in which she interviewed and painted wounded soldiers struggling to reenter civilian life. Also on display, some works inspired by "the changing relationship between war and women" by Ben-Amots, titled War Brides. Through Feb. 13. *Gene Diodato*, held in Sangre's Foyer galleries, a series of plein air paintings. Through April 20. *Klaus Anselm*, a series of works by this Pueblo artist who hails from Germany and has worked as a doctor before turning to weaving. Through April 20.

Shears, 334 N. Nevada Ave., 633-4273, shearsbarbershop.com. *Abstract Expressions*, new paintings, encaustics and mixed-media works from local artists Sheary Clough Suiter and Nard Claar. Through March 15.

Soirée, 1003 S. Tejon St., 633-8313, coloradospringsvenue.com. *Jill Lawson*, a solo show by the local artist. Through March 31.

S.P.Q.R., 17B E. Bijou St., 633-4240. *Student Show*, an exhibit of work by artists who have taken lessons from Modbo/S.P.Q.R. co-owner and curator Brett Andrus. Including: Dave Tweedy, Monique Viger, Cole Bennett, Susan Fletcher and others. Feb. 1-22. Opening reception, Fri., Feb. 1, 5:30 p.m. to midnight.

Steel City Art Works, 216 S. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/542-6838, steelcityart.com. *February Featured Artists*, an exhibition of acrylics from Diana La Morris, paintings from Iren Grissom, and recycled-art from Tom Ossner. Opening reception, Fri., Feb. 1, 5 p.m.

Woodland Park Public Library, 218 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 686-7512, uphs@peakinter.net. *Scenic Views from the Colorado Midland Railway*, an exhibition of items from the collection of the Ute Pass Historical Society.

Auditions&Entries

Cottonwood Center for the Arts, seeks entries for three upcoming shows. *The Life Abstract:* Abstract, nonfigurative, nonobjective or nonrepresentational works in a variety of media, including 3-D, will be considered. Intake: March 21-22.

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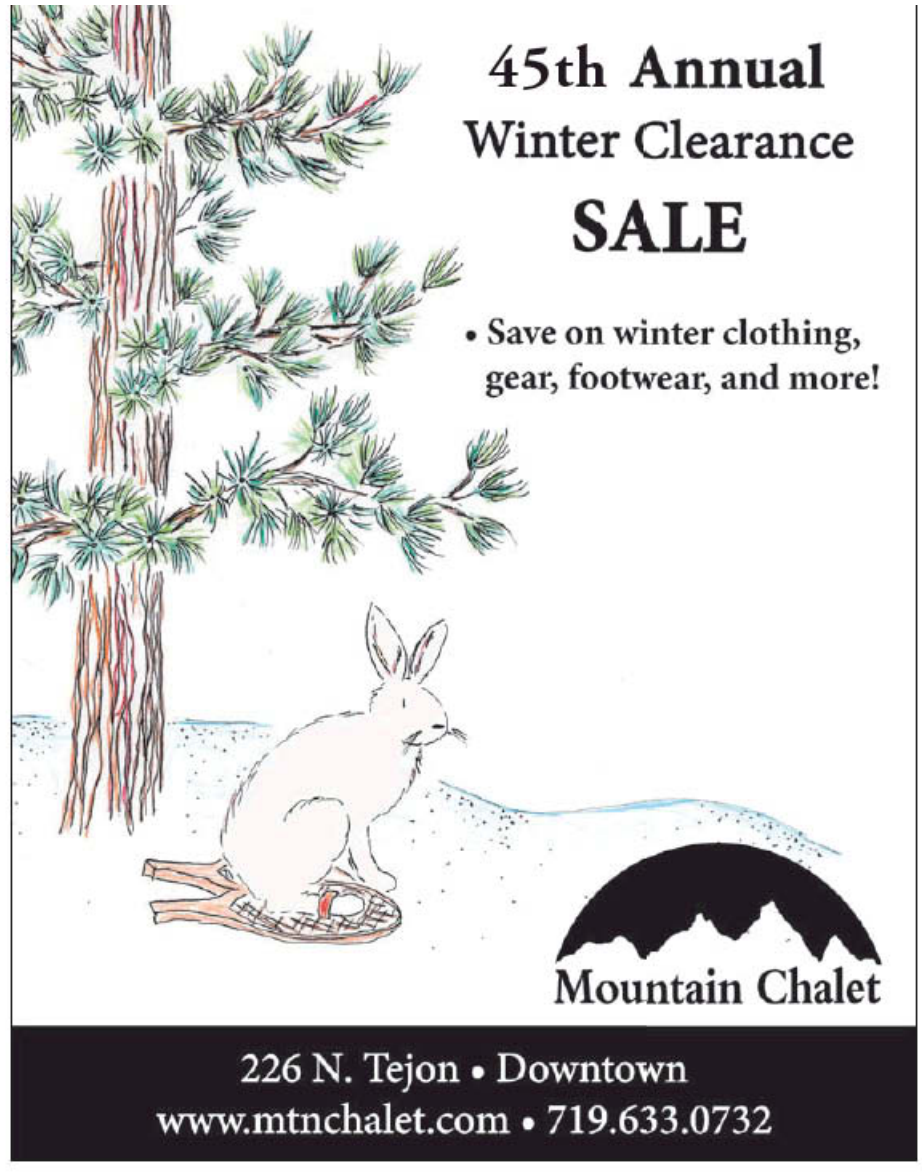

Wily and Wonderful Things: Works celebrating the aesthetics of outsider art and steampunk will be considered, including painting, sculpture and worn art. Intake: May 23-24. *Standing on the Shoulders of Cowboys:* Works reflecting themes of the American frontier or the modern Southwest will be considered, including painting, sculpture and worn art. Intake: July 18-19. See website for more information on all shows. Cottonwood Center for the Arts, 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, info@cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com/events.

Improv Colorado is seeking new members. Contact the company via e-mail for a tryout. improvcolorado@gmail.com, improvcolorado.com.

Pikes Peak Community College seeks two people for its upcoming productions from Eugene O'Neill: a man 55 years old or older, and a girl between 8 and 12. Auditions will be held Feb. 8-9. PPCC Centennial Campus, 5675 S. Academy Blvd., 502-3145, ppcc.edu.

Pikes Peak Workforce Center seeks employers willing to hire youths for summer jobs to participate in the Annual Governor's Summer Job Hunt Youth Job Fair on March 7. Contact 667-3829 or bobgemignani@elpasoco.com to sign up. Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, #1107, 667-3700, ppwfc.org.

St. Patrick's Day Parade call for entries, the parade committee seeks marching bands, service groups and school groups; youth, 4-H and horse groups; as well as dancers, singers and anyone who wants to build a float. Go online for an entry application or call for more information. Deadline for entries: Feb. 22, 4 p.m. 635-8803, csstpats.com.

Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts seeks entries for its upcoming *Fourth Annual Visions of Light Photography Exhibition.* Entry forms available online. Entry deadline: Jan. 31. $35 for three entries, $10 for each additional entry. Tri-Lakes Center for the Arts, 304 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-0475, trilakesarts.org.

Clubs&Organizations

Black Cat Books' Knitting Group, a weekly celebration of yarn and stitchery, now at Black Cat Books' new location in the BAC. E-mail RSVP requested. Sundays, 4-6 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, Natalie@BlackCatBooks.com, thebac.org.

Colorado Springs Toastmasters, Mondays, 6 p.m. Maggie Mae's Restaurant & Pub, 2405 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 425-6004, reports.toastmasters.org/findaclub/zoomclub.cfm?clubNumber=555.

PICK **The Bridge Gallery,** 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgeartgallery.com. *Incompatibility,* an exploration of the titular concept in various media by the member artists of the Bridge Gallery. Feb. 1-28. Opening reception Fri., Feb. 1, 5-9 p.m.

Colorado Vegetarian Group, open to anyone interested in a vegetarian or vegan dietary lifestyle. Visit the website or contact coloradospringsveg@yahoo.com for meetings and other details. vegetarian.meetup.com/534.

Debtors Anonymous, weekly 12-step meetings for those struggling with debt, overspending and/or underearning. First Lutheran Church, 1515 N. Cascade Ave., 641-2979, debtorsanonymous.org.

Ella Mae Bransom Association Meetings, working for the improvement of the quality of health and life of local families and individuals affected by sickle cell and related diseases. First Saturday of every month, 10:30 a.m. Southeast YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Drive, 596-7308, ppymca.org/southeast-family-center.

Investment Club, a night of snacks, beverages and discussion of financial opportunities, led by a professional financial advisor. Enjoy two free meetings before joining. First Tuesday of every month, 6:15 p.m. $20. Rocky Mountain Community Land Trust, 1212 W. Colorado Ave., 447-9300, rmclt.org.

Knitwits & Hookers, a knitting and crochet group where all levels of experience are welcome; contact for meeting details as they change weekly. Mondays. Free. ravelry.com.

MMJ-Patient Meeting, an open gathering from Coloradans 4 Cannabis Patient Rights. Last Wednesday of every month, 7 p.m. Free. Lofty's, 287 E. Fountain Blvd., #100, 271-8430, c4cpr.org.

MS Support Groups, offering five support groups around the region for those living with MS and their caregivers. For locations and information call 633-4603. Multiple Sclerosis Alliance of Southern Colorado, 1322 N. Academy Blvd., #119, 633-4603, msasoco.org.

National Organization of the Mentally Ill (NAMI) Colorado Springs, a support group for families of persons with mental illness. First and third Tuesday of every month, 7-8:30 p.m. NAMI Office, 510 E. Willamette Ave., 473-8477, namicoloradosprings.org.

Networking Groups, Pikes Peak Job Search Networking Group meets Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon. 50+ Job Seekers Group meets Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon. Free. Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, 636-0000, dhs.elpasoco.com.

No-Nuts Moms Group of Colorado Springs, a peanut- and tree-nut-free playgroup for all ages, who can participate in indoor and outdoor play dates. Contact the group for specific times and dates. Free. tinyurl.com/nonutsmoms.

Parent Education/Toddler Playgroup, a "positive parenting" playgroup for 2- to 3-year-olds. Call for location. Fridays, 9:30 a.m.; through March 8. 785-3714.

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Cornerstone Arts Week 2013 explores the ways in which humor and the arts create bridges between cultures, belief systems, and yes — even political parties.
Visit coloradocollege.edu or theideaspace.com for a full schedule of events.

Photography Classes and Group, offering photography and Photoshop classes at various locations around town. Visit 3peaksphoto.com/classes.html for a schedule. A photography group is also open to new members of all skill levels. Visit meetup.com/The-Colorado-Photography-Learning-Group for more information. 260-6637.

Pikes Peak Jugglers, an informal group of jugglers ranging in skill from beginners to pros. Non-members are welcome. Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Downtown YMCA, 207 N. Nevada Ave., 477-9978, ppymca.org.

Pikes Peak New Horizons Band, for adults 40 and up who would like to continue to play musical instruments. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9:15-11:15 a.m. Nazarene Bible College, 1111 Academy Park Loop, 598-2373, ppiom.org.

Pikes Peak Over the Hill Gang, a club for people 50 and over who want to ski, bike, go to wine tastings, theater, monthly potlucks and other activities. Visit the website for more. ppothg.com.

Seize Your Opportunity, an "edutainment" seminar and networking event for professionals and entrepreneurs, presented by New American Colonies. Thurs., Jan. 31, 8:30-11:45 a.m. $30. The Club at Flying Horse, 1880 Weiskopf Point, 800/909-9002, jointhecolonies.com/event.

Sno Jets Ski and Social Club, a club for ski enthusiasts. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Dublin House, 1850 Dominion Way, 265-8820, snojets.org.

Sons of Italy - Pikes Peak, a monthly meeting of the service and advocacy organization for people of Italian descent. Held at VFW Post 101, 702 S. Tejon St. First Tuesday of every month, 6:30 p.m. 481-8623.

WINGS, offering therapist-facilitated support groups for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse in which survivors are believed and accepted. A women's group is held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30. 800/373-8671, wingsfound.org.

Comedy&Improv

Danny Villapando, Jan. 31 to Feb. 2. $2-$10, two-item minimum. Loonee's Comedy Corner, 1305 N. Academy Blvd., 591-0707, loonees.com.

PICK ***Laughing Matters,*** a performance from the traveling arm of The Second City, Chicago's famed comedy troupe. Fri., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. Free. CSU-Pueblo's Hoag Hall, 2200 Bonaforte Blvd., Pueblo, 719/549-2365.

RiP Improv Comedy, two performances by this local troupe. Family friendly. Feb. 1-2, 8 p.m. $12. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

Concerts

2013 Annual Drum Gathering, an afternoon of drumming, dancing and singing. Bring food, congas, yembes, bells, shakers, tambourines, guitars, flutes and horns if you have them. Sat., Feb. 2, noon to 6 p.m. Hillside Community Center, 925 S. Institute St., 303/450-1245, gillthedrummerman@hotmail.com, springsgov.com.

Friends House Concerts: Willy Porter, Sun., Feb. 10, 7 p.m. ($30); Seth Glier, Fri., March 22, 7:30 p.m. ($20); Antje Duvekot, Sat., April 20, 7:30 p.m. ($25); and Peter Mulvey, Sun., June 16, 7 p.m. ($25). Payment should be checks made out to Friends House Concerts. house-concerts.org.

Music Jam, a jam for those with little or no musical experience. Fridays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

DanceParties&Classes

Belly Dance for Beginners with Sareet, an introductory course on belly dance with tips on how to isolate different parts of the body and combining movements. Sat., Feb. 2, 11 a.m. Free. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

Colorado Ballroom, basic instruction and dance time to the waltz, rumba, polka and more. Come at 7 p.m. for a beginners class. No partner or experience required. First and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $3-$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

CommuniDance, a free-form dance group. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. and Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809.

Contact Improv, a parter dance form based on a shared point of contact. Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; through Jan 31. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809.

PICK **Kreuser Gallery,** 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Climb*, to honor the gallery's third anniversary, Kreuser, Commons and the AHA galleries will feature a juried show of artwork that relates to the word "climb." Feb. 1-28. Opening reception, Fri., Feb. 1, 5 p.m.

Waltz Lessons, offering free and low-cost waltz lessons for patterned dances. Go online for a schedule. Call to sign up. 598-2885, 592-1418, broadmoorwaltzclub.com/default.html.

Film

Cinemaholics, weekly film screenings with free popcorn and drink specials. Go online for updates. Tuesdays, 9-11:30 p.m. Free. Shuga's, 702 S. Cascade Ave., 328-1412, shugasblog.com.

Fourth Annual Fly Fishing Film Tour, a benefit for Project Healing Waters, featuring film screenings, a live auction, raffles and more. Fri., Feb. 1, 6 p.m. $12-$15. Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200, stargazerstheatre.com.

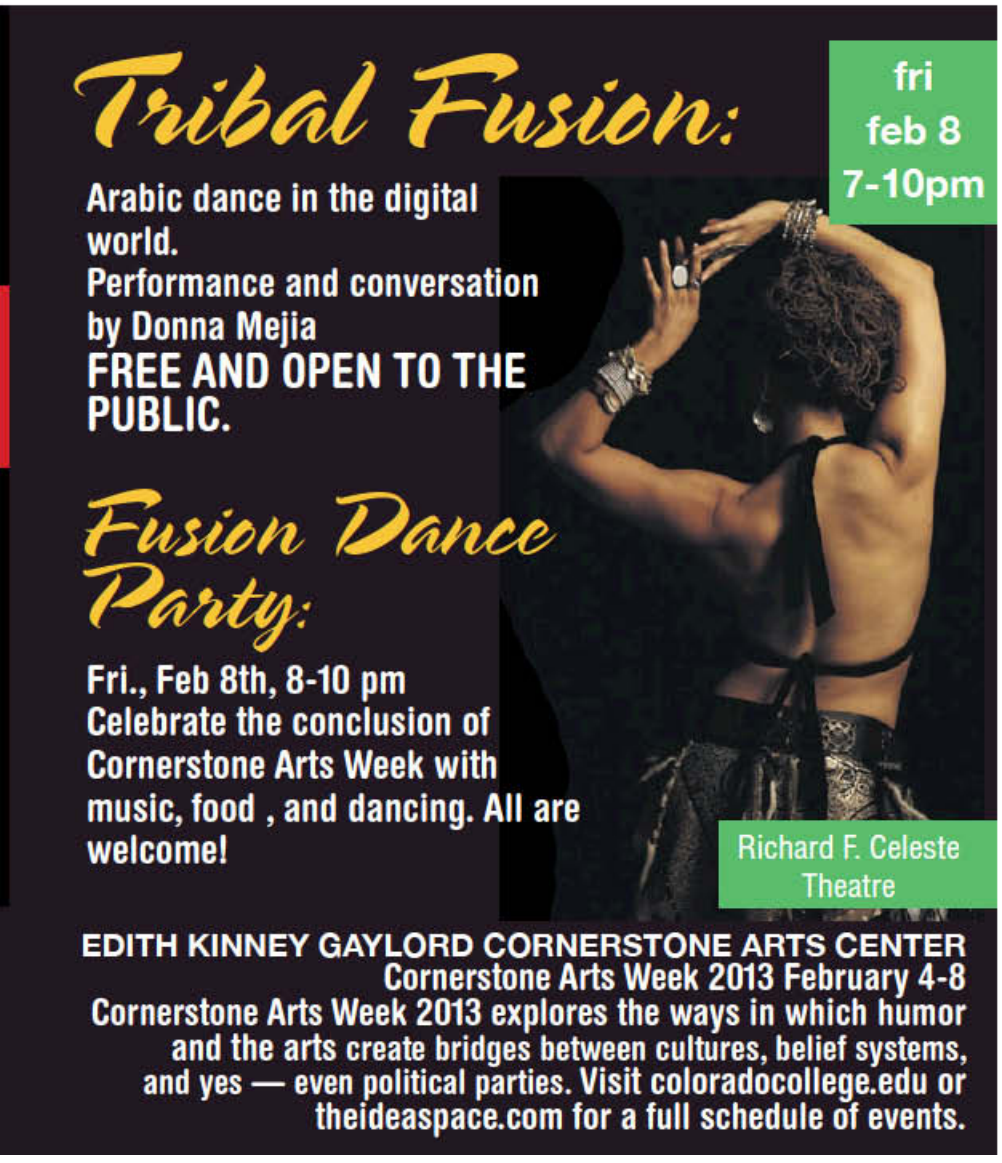
The Infidel, a screening of this film about a Muslim man who finds out one day that he was born Jewish. A panel discussion will follow. Mon., Feb. 4, 4:30 p.m. Free. CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., coloradocollege.edu.

Last Call at the Oasis, a film about water use and abuse, with a post-film discussion on area water issues and fracking. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Tues., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. $10. Cinemark 16 IMAX, 3305 Cinema Point, 576-5565, tugg.com/events/2660.

The Line, a 45-minute film about poverty in America. Fri., Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m. Free. First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., 471-8522, fumc-cs.org.

Food&Drink

Avery Beer Dinner, a multi-course dinner featuring the beers of Avery Brewing Co. Wed., Jan. 30, 6:30 p.m. $85. The Blue Star, 1645 S. Tejon St., 632-1086, thebluestar.net.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feb 8
7-10pm
Arabic dance in the digital world.
Performance and conversation by Donna Mejia
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Fri., Feb 8th, 8-10 pm
Celebrate the conclusion of Cornerstone Arts Week with music, food , and dancing. All are welcome!
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Cornerstone Arts Week 2013 explores the ways in which humor and the arts create bridges between cultures, belief systems, and yes — even political parties. Visit coloradocollege.edu or theideaspace.com for a full schedule of events.

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New Zealand Wine Dinner, a five-course dinner paired with wine. Sat., Feb. 2, 6:30 p.m. $55. 2 South Wine Bar, 2 S. 25th St., 475-9700.

Tuesday Night Karma Hour, a weekly happy hour with a twist: each week Bristol will donate $1 from each pint sold to a charity. Tuesdays, 5 p.m. Bristol Brewing Company, 1647 S. Tejon St., 633-2555, bristolbrewing.com.

Yalumba Wine Tasting, a five-appetizer wine tasting with sommelier Steve Kander. Drop in at any time during the two-hour period. Wed., Jan. 30, 5:30-7:30 p.m. $25. Craftwood Inn, 404 El Paso Blvd., Manitou Springs, 685-9000, craftwood.com.

GetInvolved

"At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington," a celebration of Black History Month with the Urban League of the Pikes Peak Region; James Tucker, editor and founder of *African American Voice*; and Wells Fargo. RSVP to 634-1525. Held at 506 E. Moreno Ave. Fri., Feb. 1, 5:30 p.m.

Health&Healing

28-Day Break from Alcohol Challenge, a special detox yoga class to kick off this month-long program of cleansing, discipline and empowerment, featuring guidance from a holistic health counselor and special encouragement events throughout February. Fri., Feb. 1, 5:45-7:30 p.m. $30. cambio. Yoga, 3326 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 321-8547, cambioyoga.com.

Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps for Youth, a three- to four-month course for youths who are at-risk for substance abuse. $15. Lotus Center for Self-Discovery, 2860 S. Circle Drive, #120, 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org.

New Year, New You, a night of consultations, treatments, samples, healthy snacks, raffle items and more. Wed., Jan. 30, 4-8 p.m. Free. Gold Hill Mesa Community Center, 142 S. Raven Mine Drive, 633-2202.

Kids&Family

Disney Live: Phineas and Ferb LIVE, a stage production of this hit TV show. Sun., Feb. 3, 12 and 3 p.m. $19-$62. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

Groundhog Oops! Prairie Dog Day, a chance to learn more about "the West's groundhog, the prairie dog" with a slideshow, craft and a drive to a real prairie dog town. Reservations required. Sat., Feb. 2, 10 a.m. $3-$4. Fountain Creek Nature Center, 320 Peppergrass Lane, Fountain, 520-6745, elpasocountyparks.com.

Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps for Youth, a three- to four-month course for youth who are at-risk for substance abuse. $15. Lotus Center for Self-Discovery, 2860 S. Circle Drive, #120, 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org.

PTSD Peer-Led Support Group, a support group for the spouses or significant others of a veteran or current military person suffering with PTSD. Tuesdays, 4:30 p.m. Veterans' Affairs Clinic, 25 N. Spruce St., #207, 685-1965.

PICK **Swirl Wine Bar,** 717 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, 685-2294, swirlismybar.com. *Work by Sarah Milteer,* a solo show of paintings by Milteer, a local artist. Through March 1. Opening reception, Sat., Feb. 2, 7-9 p.m.

Energy Healing: An Experiential Workshop, a hands-on class that discusses and practices the various forms of energy healing. Last Thursday of every month, 6:30-9 p.m. $10. Celebration Community Room, 2207 W. Colorado Ave., 465-3536, celebrationstore.com.

Free Depression Support Groups, offering 10 peer-led support groups weekly, hosted by the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Colorado Springs. Call or go online for more information. 477-1515, dbsacoloradosprings.org.

Is Your Breathing Making You Sick? a lecture from occupational therapist Roberto de Guevara on how poor respiration patterns can adversely affect overall health. Sponsored by Openminded Skeptics. RSVP recommended. Mon., Feb. 4, 6:45-8 p.m. East Library, 5550 N. Union Blvd., 265-6654, drbennett@dentalholistic.com, ppld.org.

Manitou Yoga, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8 a.m. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

PTSD Support Group, for soldiers experiencing nightmares, flashbacks, insomnia, irritability, and/or hyper-vigilance. Meet with other soldiers who are experiencing the same symptoms. Facilitated by licensed therapist. Confidential. Covered by Tricare. Tuesdays, Thursdays, 4-5:30 p.m. Soldier Life Center, 1767 S. Eighth St., #100, 471-0800, soldierlifecenter.com.

Lectures&Learning

American Living History: Dr. Charles Fox Gardiner, a portrayal of the Colorado frontier physician by UCCS adjunct faculty member and author John Stansfield. Pre-registration required. Fri., Feb. 1, 1:30-3 p.m. $25. Country Club Corners Event Center, 182 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., 633-4991, visitpillar.org.

De-escalation Techniques, a class by the Colorado Springs Police Department. No RSVPs necessary. Thurs., Jan. 31, 7 p.m. Free. CSPD Stetson Hills Area Command, 4110 Tutt Blvd., 444-3168.

Disaster Preparedness, a class given by the Colorado Springs Police Department. No RSVPs required. Tues., Feb. 5, 7 p.m. Free. CSPD Stetson Hills Area Command, 4110 Tutt Blvd., 444-3168.

"Dislocated: Removals, Asylums, and Belonging in U.S. History," an illustrated lecture by Middlebury College's Director of Ethnic Studies Susan Burch, a CC alumna, who will discuss "the treatment of Native Americans in penal, medical and disability institutions in the early 20th century." Thurs., Jan. 31, 3:30 p.m. Free. CC's Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

Emerging Economic Forces in the World, a lecture series from PILLAR Institute for Lifelong Learning, featuring presentations on China, Brazil and India by USAF economics teacher Mike Luccesi, Colorado College economics professor Pedro de Araujo, and Dick Celeste, former ambassador to India and former president of Colorado College. Registration deadline: Feb. 1. Mon., Feb. 4, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 11, 1:30-3:30 p.m.; and Mon., Feb. 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m. $20-60. PILLAR Classroom, 202 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., 633-4991, visitpillar.org.

Pikes Peak Workforce Center classes, offering courses on topics such as: writing a good résumé, preparing for interviews, starting a job search, improving computer skills and more. Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, #1107, 667-3700, ppwfc.org.

"Poetry, Violence, and Memory: Corrido Ballads of New Mexico and Colorado," a discussion and concert of traditional narrative ballads from New Mexico and southern Colorado by Enrique Lamadrid, a professor of Spanish from the University of New Mexico. Thurs., Jan. 31, 7:15 p.m. Free. CC's Packard Hall (5 W. Cache la Poudre St.). On Fri., Feb. 1, Brenda Romero will perform folk ballads in Packard Hall. 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

Senior Resource Development Agency Classes, register now for classes and sessions including line dancing, computer skills, painting, quilting and more. See the online calendar for current events. Senior Resource Development Agency, 230 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/545-8900, srda.org.

LiteraryEvents

"Celebration of Black," a night of poetry and performances, from Mark Browning, Midnight Poet and others. Fri., Feb. 1, 7:25 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 2, 7:25 p.m.; and Fri., Feb. 15, 7:25 p.m. The Feb. 1 event is free. $10. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

"Humor in Poetry," a reading and workshop from local poet Phil Ginsburg. Sat., Feb. 2, 10 a.m. Free. CC's Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 481-1316, poetrywest.org.

The Pikes Peak Poet Laureate Project, in conjunction with the Fountain Valley School, seeks original poems from area high-school students for a poetry contest. Deadline for entries is March 1. Fountain Valley School, 6155 Fountain Valley School Road, 337-0004, dreynolds@fvs.edu, fvs.edu.

Word Wednesdays, an open mic session for poets, comedians, actors, singers and other performers to share their work. Search the event on Facebook for more. Wednesdays, 8 p.m. V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 313-0683.

SpecialEvents

A Community Celebration of Black History, a night of entertainment, exhibits and vendors commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Fri., Feb. 1, 5:30 p.m. Urban League Child Development Center, 506 E. Moreno Ave., 634-1525, springsurbanleague.org.

Crab Cioppino, a night of cocktails, dancing, live music and crabs, shrimp, mussels and more. Saturday, Feb. 9, 5 p.m. $15-$35. Colorado Springs Shrine Club, 6 S. 33rd St., 229-1177, unitedportugueseofcolorado.org.

"God, That's Funny! Humor, Religion, Politics, Identity," a panel discussion featuring author Firoozeh Dumas, NPR's Jonathan Goldstein and Colorado College professor Steven Hayward. Tues., Feb. 5, 7 p.m. Free. CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., coloradocollege.edu.

Spirituality

Bhagavan Kirtan! a live performance of an ancient mantra with music and kirtan, the yoga

of devotion. Sat., Feb. 2, 7:30-9 p.m. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 748-3585, movementartscs.com.

PICK **Bill Porter talks and workshop,** a lecture entitled "The Chinese Quest for Solitude." Thurs., Jan. 31, 6 p.m. Free. USAFA's Arnold Hall, 2302 Cadet Drive. Porter will also appear on Friday, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. at Colorado College's Armstrong Hall (14 E. Cache la Poudre St.) and on Saturday, Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. at CC's Cornerstone Arts Center (825 N. Cascade Ave.). 632-7678, bodhimindcenter.org.

"Buddhist Psychology of Understanding the Mind," a series investigating the mind. Thursdays through Feb. 14. $7-$10. Center for Spiritual Living, 3685 Jeannine Drive, 596-6894, cslcs.org.

"Letting Things End," a class on letting go of old beliefs. Held at 1015 N. Weber St. RSVP by Feb. 5 for the Feb. 12 event. $15. 290-9789, mahakalaradio.org.

Spiritual Guide, offering low-cost sessions to help participants "explore and deepen your spirituality, inner peace and well-being." Call 719/388-6490 to sign up.

Spirituality Group, Thursdays, 7-9 p.m. Black Cat Books, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, manitoubooks.com.

PICK **Eagle Days,** the 17th annual celebration of these members of the raptor family takes place this year at Lake Pueblo State Park, the Pueblo Nature & Raptor Center and the Pueblo Zoo. Features eagle-viewing opportunities, live bird programs and presentations by raptor experts. See website for full schedule of events. Fri., Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 3, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. 719/561-5300, eagleday.org.

What is Theurgy? a good question and an even better answer from Fr. Ian Carman in the latest installment of his educational spiritual lecture series. Wed., Jan. 30, 7-9 p.m. Liberal Catholic Church Center of Colorado Springs, 2720 E. Las Vegas St., #115, 387-0308, stbonaventurelcc.org.

Sports&Recreation

Cañon City Walk, a non-competitive walking event from the Falcon Wanderers Volksmarch Club of Colorado Springs. Meet at Habitat for Humanity (727 S. Eighth St., Cañon City). Sat., Feb. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 251-8009, falconwanderers.org.

C'mon Run, free weekly 5K runs (or walks) with a free drink for each run and more freebies for the more runs you complete. Thursdays, 5 p.m. C'mon Inn, 711 Dale St., Fountain, 382-7562, cmoninnfountain.com.

Colorado Springs Cruisers, easy, weekly rides that leave Lofty's by 10 and hit downtown spots like Zodiac, Triple Nickel Tavern, V Bar and others for a leisurely, 21 and up bike ride. Thursdays, 9 p.m. Lofty's, 287 E. Fountain Blvd., #100, 520-0024, wfacebook.com/coscruisers.

Coquette's Incline Club, a Saturday morning workout in rain, snow or shine; also enjoy socializing, coffee and food. Ten climbs earns a free T-shirt. Saturdays, 8 a.m. Coquette's Bistro & Bakery, 915 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-2420, coquettesbistroandbakery.com.

First & Main Run Club, weekly 3K and 5K runs with monthly prizes for club members. Held in the field behind Rock Bottom. Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Rock Bottom, 3316 Cinema Point Drive, 550-3586, facebook.com/rbrunclub.

Salsa Brava Nacho Ordinary Run Club, a 5K run through the neighborhood with drink specials and menu items just for club members. Freebies include a free T-shirt after five runs, a free appetizer after 10 runs and a free entrée after 20 runs. Tuesdays, 6 p.m. Free. Salsa Brava Fresh Mexican Grill - Briar Village, 9420 Briar Village Point, 955-6650. Also held Wednesdays, 6 p.m. Free. Salsa Brava Fresh Mexican Grill - Village Center, 802 Village Center Drive, 266-9244, salsabravaonline.com.

SouthSide Johnny's Running Club, a running club with the added benefit of CrossFit, or "workouts comprised of constantly varied functional movements (like pushing, pulling, squatting, lifting, running) executed at high intensity." Wednesdays, 6 p.m. SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487, tinyurl.com/ssjrunning.

Super Half Marathon and Game Day 5K, a great way to get a run in with friends and still catch the Super Bowl. Follows the Quinn's Running Club route to the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail. Pre-register for discount. Sun., Feb. 3, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. $20-80. Plaza of the Rockies, 121 S. Tejon St., pprrun.org.

Team In Training Information Meeting, an overview of Team In Training's endurance event training programs, which all benefit blood cancer research. RSVP recommended. Mon., Feb. 4, 6 p.m. Penrose Hospital Main, 2222 N. Nevada Ave., 440-8641, lauren.trujillo@lls.org, teamintraining.org/rm.

University Village Colorado Running Club, a club where you can run, jog or walk on one on-site loop of a single mile, or two others running north or south on the Pikes Peak Greenway Trail for four or six miles round-trip, respectively. Meet by Smashburger to check in. Mondays, 5:15 p.m. Free. University Village Colorado, 5230 N. Nevada Ave., 632-5000, uvcrunningclub.com.

Winter Gear Sale & UpaDowna Fundraiser, a special event with 30-percent discounts on snow sport gear, free lunch from McCabe's Tavern, live music, door prizes and giveaways. A portion of proceeds will support local outdoor adventure nonprofit UpaDowna. Now accepting donations of winter apparel, ski goggles, helmets and ski/snowboard boots for resale. Sat., Feb. 2, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mountain Equipment Recyclers, 1024 S. Tejon St., 210-6427, merecyclers.com.

Stage

Elephant Tails, a play by Brigitta De Pree about her childhood in Africa and the remarkable elephants she observed there. Feb. 2-3. $10.50.

If you made less than $50,000 in 2012 and had children living at home, you could be eligible to receive as much as $5,000 or more in tax refunds through the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit! Plus, there are tax credits available if you are saving for retirement or paying for college. Don't miss out on the opportunity to put money back in your pocket this tax season!
For more info, dial 2-1-1, or visit www.eitc.org/eitc.

If you make less than $50,000, get your taxes done for FREE at this Tax Help Colorado site near you:

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Centennial Campus
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January 26-March 23
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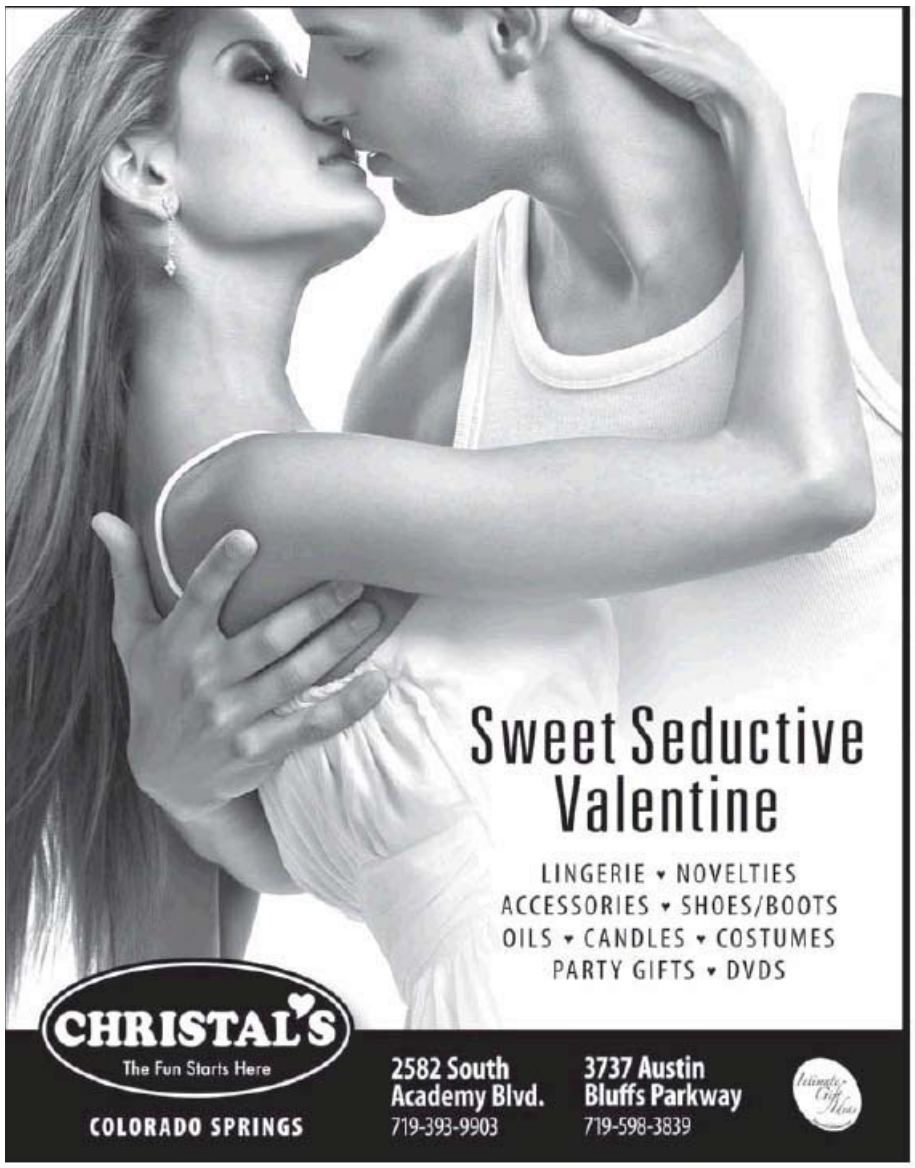

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The Hans Christian Andersen Storybook, a tribute to Andersen done with marionettes, wherein "the Ugly Duckling voices objections to his author." Jan. 30 to March 17. Simpich Showcase, 2413 W. Colorado Ave., 465-2492, simpich.com.

The Lion in Winter, a production of this award-winning play about King Henry II of England, his estranged wife Eleanor of Aquitaine, and their three sons, each vying for the throne. Through Feb. 3. $10-$15. Springs Ensemble Theatre, 1903 E. Cache La Poudre St., 357-3080, springsensembletheatre.org.

PICK ***Nunset Blvd,*** a production of this play about a group of performing nuns who go to Hollywood and audition for a play when their initial plans go awry. Fri., Feb. 1, 7:30 p.m. $25-$43. USAFA's Arnold Hall, 2302 Cadet Drive, 333-4497, usafaservices.com/academy-concerts/academy-concerts.

Prelude to a Kiss, a production of this Pulitzer Prize-nominated comedy in which a pair of newlyweds face new challenges when the bride switches body with an old man. Jan. 31 to Feb. 17. $15-$37. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org.

Red, a production of this two-man play following a year in the life of abstract-expressionist artist Mark Rothko as he works through a difficult commission. Talkbacks with the audience will be held after most performances; go online for dates. Jan. 31 to Feb. 17. $15-$35. UCCS' Dusty Loo Bon Vivant Theater, 3955 Regent Circle, 255-3232, theatreworkscs.org.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown, a production of the classic tale of optimism, Valentines and baseball from the Conservatory's Broadway-Bound Company and director Linda Weise. Wed., Jan. 30, 6 p.m. and Thurs., Jan. 31, 6 p.m. $5-10. Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 577-4556, csconservatory.org.

VolunteerOpportunities

ASSE International Student Exchange Programs is seeking local families to host ASSE students. All students are between 15-18 years old and have met a series of academic and character requirements. 800/733-2773, assehosts.com.

CASA of the Pikes Peak Region seeks volunteers to advocate for victims of child abuse and neglect. Training provided. CASA of the Pikes Peak Region, 701 S. Cascade Ave., 447-9898, casappr.org.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance seeks an experienced grant writer for local nonprofit serving individuals and families affected by mood disorders. Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance, 2132 E. Bijou, Suite 112, 477-1515, dbsacoloradosprings.org.

Engineers Without Borders seeks volunteers to help with technical work and fundraising for its water project in Bolivia. E-mail or go online for more information. peisele@comcast.net, ewb-cos.org.

Evercare Hospice and Palliative Care needs volunteers to assist patients and families as companion volunteers, massage therapy volunteers (must be licensed) and healing touch volunteers (must be certified). Training provided. Please call 265-1109 for more.

First Visitor at Peak Vista seeks volunteers for this program, which helps provide free home support to families with children 0-3. 632-5700.

North End Adult Day Care seeks volunteers to play games, sing, make arts and crafts and more with North End's seniors, who are in need of memory care. Call for more information. 351-8786, northendadultdaycare.com.

Odyssey HealthCare Hospice is seeking volunteers to offer companionship to people with terminal illnesses by sharing your talents as a musician, artist or pet therapist or just by listening. Volunteers must complete training, call for dates. 573-4166, rshardy@odsyhealth.com.

Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care is seeking volunteers in various capacities, especially for help on the weekends, such as working in prescription animal therapy, handling courier duties, being vigil volunteers who sit with dying patients, and Helping Hands volunteers who perform chores after a patient dies. Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care, 2550 Tenderfoot Hill St., 633-3400 ext. 600, pikespeakhospice.org.

(Pikes) Peak Pet Pantry is seeking donations of pet food and volunteers to help pick up and distribute food, talk to business sponsors and contact local veterinary offices. 217-9528, pikespeakpetpantry.org.

Project Angel Heart needs volunteers to help deliver free, nutritious meals to those living with life-threatening illnesses. Apply online for more information. projectangelheart.org.

The Secure the Call Foundation is seeking donations of old cell phones to reprogram for direct 911 calls for free distribution to senior centers, domestic violence shelters and other agencies. 888/883-6628, securethecall.org.

Spirit of America Response (SOAR) seeks volunteers to help with office duties as well as other programs offered by the organization. Call or go online for more info. 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org.

PICK **Modbo,** 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo.wordpress.com. *Zugraphos*, a solo show by Modbo Collective member Erin Jones, who just returned from studying art abroad. "Zugraphos" is the Greek word for painter, meaning literally "transcriber of life." Feb. 1-22. Opening reception, Fri., Feb. 1, 5:30 p.m. to midnight.

OutofTown

art events

First Friday, an evening of new art, music, food and more at downtown Salida art galleries and studios. The theme of this month's First Friday is "Love Art." Fri., Feb. 1, 5-8 p.m. salidaartists.com.

First Friday Reception, First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. The Artist's Gallery, 416 Main St., Cañon City, 719/345-407, theartistsgallery-online.com.

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How to Submit a Listing

Listings is a free service we offer to our readers. If you'd like to publicize an event or notice, send us the details — who, what, where, when, how much and publishable contact information — in writing **by Wednesday at noon for the following Wednesday's paper**. If humanly possible, please do so at csindy.com: Simply click "Submit an event" at the bottom of the homepage, and the rest is self-explanatory. Other means of submission include e-mail (listings@csindy.com) or fax (577-4107). One-time events typically make it into the issue on the Wednesday leading up to that event; ongoing events sometimes are included in additional issues. That said, events are included on a space-available basis, meaning we can't ever guarantee a listing will make it into print. So we strongly discourage relying on Listings as your sole source of publicity — if you'd like to guarantee placement in the *Indy*, you can purchase an ad in our classifieds section or in our retail advertising section by calling 577-4545. Questions? E-mail listings@csindy.com or call 577-4545.

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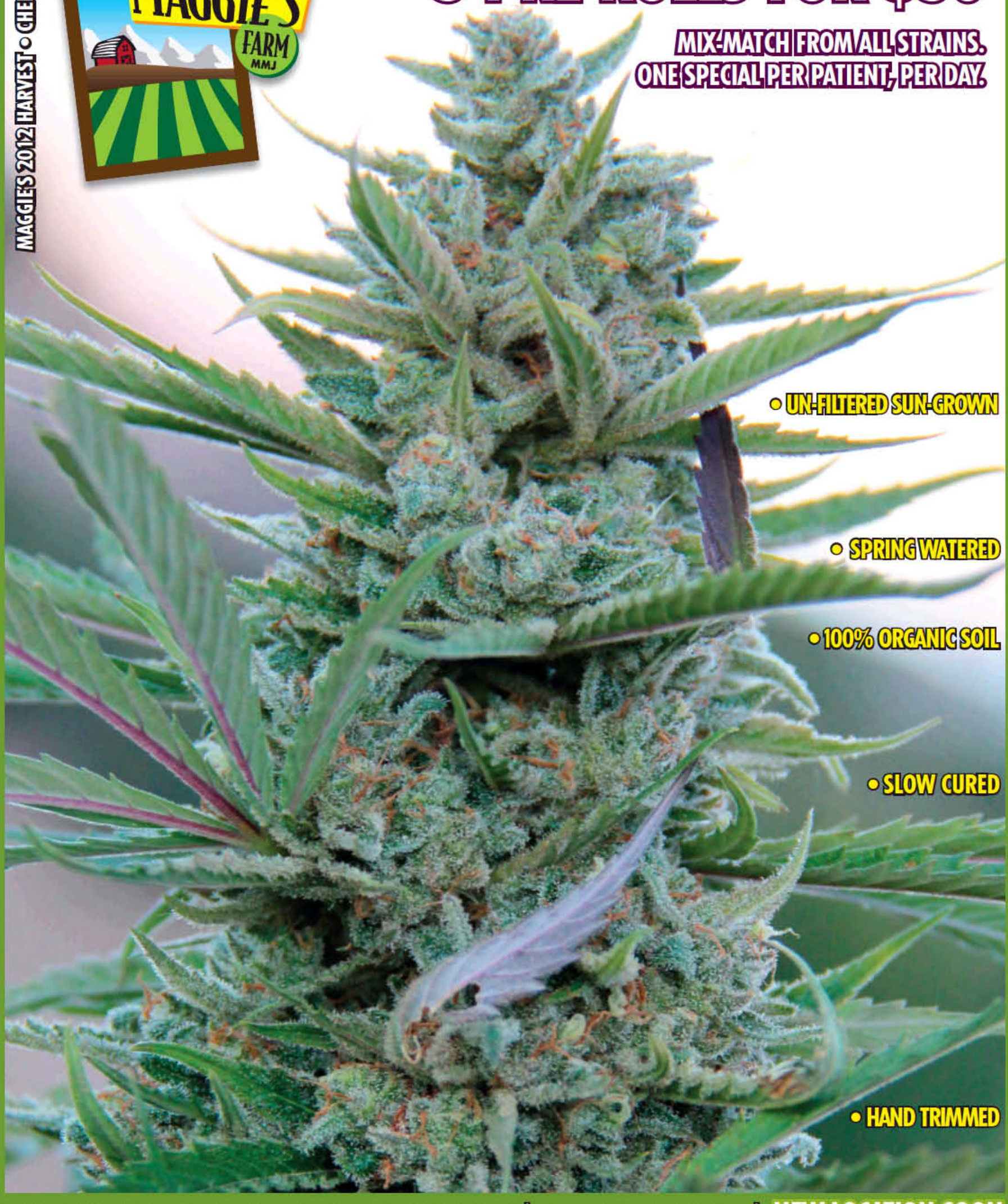

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StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

An armed carjacker, whom police described as having "leathery skin," failed to rob three women in the same shopping center parking lot in Oceanside, Calif. The first drove away. The other ignored him and proceeded to a store, where she called police. The third victim obeyed his order to remove the steering wheel lock and get out of the car, but then she activated a kill-switch that disabled the ignition and locked him inside. He smashed through a window and fled on foot. (San Diego's KNSD-TV)

Security researchers exposed plans for a Russian cyberheist using fake wire transfers to steal millions of dollars from 30 big U.S. financial institutions when the purported brain behind the operation, known as "VorVzakone" ("thief in law"), posted notices in a criminal online forum advertising for accomplices. Cybersecurity experts at Massachusetts-based RSA blogged that VorVzakone's notice said "accomplice botmasters" would be trained "boot camp style" and receive "a percentage of the funds they will siphon from victims' accounts into mule accounts controlled by the gang." (*The Christian Science Monitor*)

Pre-sinner winner

The Iowa Supreme Court ruled that bosses could fire workers they see as an "irresistible attraction," even if the employees haven't engaged in flirtatious behavior or made other advances. The case involved a dentist who fired an assistant that he and his wife decided was a threat to their marriage. (Associated Press)

Digital addiction

A 15-year-old girl and her 16-year-old friend in Rocklin, Calif., drugged the younger girl's parents with prescription sleeping drugs so they could use the Internet after their 10 p.m. curfew. The suspicious parents tested themselves with a drug kit the next day and called police. (*The Sacramento Bee*)

Too much of a bad thing

Doctors at the Golden Jubilee Hospital in Clydebank, Scotland, saved a man who overdosed on Brussels sprouts on Christmas. They said the traditional holiday vegetable contains plenty of vitamin K, which counteracted the effect of anticoagulants the man was taking because he had a mechanical heart. "We think this is possibly the first-ever admission to hospital caused by the consumption of Brussels sprouts," hospital chief executive Jill Young said. (BBC News)

Hazards of modern living

The number of people seeking hospital treatment after consuming energy drinks has doubled in the past four years, according to a government survey, jumping to an estimated 20,000 cases. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration said most cases involved teens and young adults. "A lot of people don't realize the strength of these things," Howard Mell, an emergency physician in suburban Cleveland, said. "I had someone come in recently who had drunk three energy drinks in an hour, which is the equivalent of 15 cups of coffee," (Associated Press)

Falling furniture killed 349 Americans between 2000 and 2011, according to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). It estimated that tipped-over items, mostly television sets, injure about 43,000 people a year, 59 percent of whom are children climbing, hitting or kicking them or playing nearby. "Small children are no match for a falling dresser, wall unit or 50- to 100-pound television," the CPSC said. (CBS News)

Second-Amendment follies

Police revoked the concealed-carry permit of Gary Quackenbush, 61, after he wriggled in his seat while watching a movie in Tillamook, Ore., and shook loose a loaded weapon. A seventh-grade student found the weapon the next day with a round in the chamber and the safety off. "In a time of crisis, like somebody barging into a mall or a theater, you don't have time to do a two-handed cocking of the weapon," Quackenbush explained in a brief letter to the local news media after the incident. "It is my mindset everywhere I go." His letter noted that the movie, *The Hobbit*, was "overly long and fairly boring." (Associated Press)

Wrong arm of the law

A judge acquitted Dalton, N.H., Town Clerk Sandy York of taking $100 from town funds after Police Chief Mario Audit admitted he never checked to see if any money was actually missing. Although a security video showed York putting cash in her pocketbook, Audit never asked her for an explanation, but witnesses testified that York often took large bills to the bank after closing the office to get smaller bills to make change. An accounting showed no shortage. (Manchester's *New Hampshire Union Leader*).

Better safe than sorry

After a third-grade student at a school outside Calgary was found unconscious stuck in the door of a washroom stall with a lanyard around his neck, Alberta authorities banned lanyards in all its 2,000 schools. The lanyards were used for hall passes, washroom passes and identification. (*The Calgary Herald*)

After a girl at an elementary school in Okaloosa County, Fla., claimed a boy in her class had a gun in his hoodie, officials locked down the school. Sheriff's deputies quickly responded, only to discover the alleged weapon was a marker pen inside the boy's cap. (Florida's *Crestview News Bulletin*)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

Read more Stranger Than Fiction at csindy.com.

CannaBiz

Medical marijuana news of the week

Let's (not) reschedule

Last Tuesday (immediately after we had gone to press), news broke that **Americans for Safe Access** (safeaccessnow.org), and its Coalition to Reschedule Cannabis, suffered a major setback in its roughly 11-year-old campaign to change marijuana to a Schedule III, IV or V substance. A U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington, D.C., ruled the federal Drug Enforcement Administration did *not* act in an "arbitrary and capricious" manner when it rejected ASA's request in 2011.

Some background: ASA first petitioned the DEA in 2002 to reschedule marijuana. Four years later, in 2006, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ruled there was no established, accepted medical use of the plant; finally, in 2011, the administration's rejection came.

Despite this drawn-out time frame, and the existence of several medical studies cited by the petitioners, the court was unmoved: "We will not disturb the decision of an agency that has 'examine[d] the relevant data and articulate[d] a satisfactory explanation for its action including a rational connection between the facts found and the choice made,'" went the majority opinion written by Judge Harry T. Edwards.

ASA was incensed, with chief counsel Joe Elford saying the group might appeal the ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

"To deny that sufficient evidence is lacking on the medical efficacy of marijuana is to ignore a mountain of well-documented studies that conclude otherwise," said Elford in a press release.

The magic number

Along with all the other uncertainty following the debut of Amendment 64 (see p. 17), comes the theory that a medical-marijuana patient could ostensibly combine the allowances given under 64 and Amendment 20 to increase the amount in his or her possession to three ounces.

Local defense attorney **Clifton Black** says he thinks that's pretty solid.

"My interpretation of the MMJ laws and of Amendment 64 is that an adult, 21 or older, is not prohibited from possessing 2 ounces for medical purposes (assuming they are a qualified patient) and 1 ounce for recreational purposes," he writes in an e-mail. He adds, however, that "as of right now, a police [officer] could charge somebody and then it would be up to the jury, or judge if a bench trial, to determine if the defendant was in violation of the law."

Revise and condense

The *Denver Post* reported Monday that the **Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division** is seeking to slim down and simplify its rules. The division "has released a revised draft of one chunk of rules and plans to release more drafts by Friday," wrote John Ingold. "There is a stakeholder forum on the revised rules scheduled for Feb. 15 at the Jefferson County courthouse." The latter's located at 100 Jefferson County Pkwy. in Golden.

— Bryce Crawford

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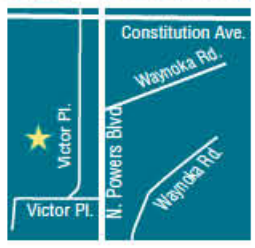

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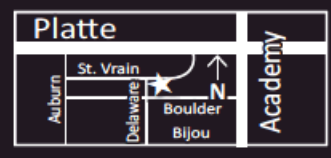

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Mack, Allyson; Janet Elizabeth Joy (2001). Marijuana as Medicine?: The Science Beyond the Controversy. National Academy Press.
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medical_cannabis

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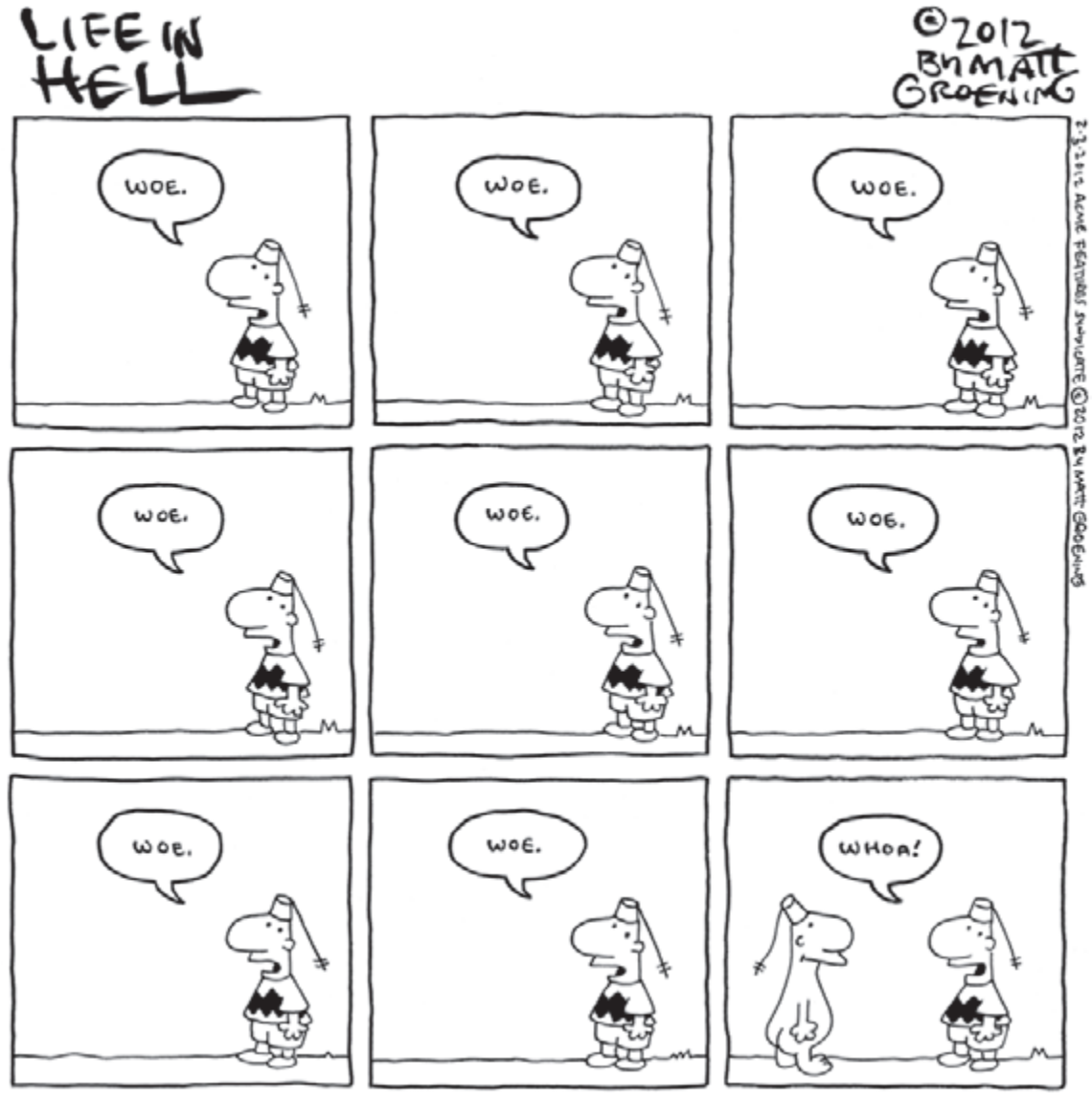

AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

The three-little-words zone

Why are women so worked up about hearing "those three little words," and why must they turn them into such a minefield? If a man says "I love you" too soon, he gets dumped because he's a clingy, needy Nice Guy. If he waits too long, he gets dumped as a suspected commitment-phobe. Even when a man operates without any calculation — freely and happily telling a woman he loves her — he runs the risk of some cutting or insulting response from her or no response at all. (I have gotten tripped up by timing this wrong a number of times.) Methinks there's a bit of self-loathing to the women who pull this baloney. — Expressing Myself

"I love you," said right away, suggests that you have great admiration for a woman's unique and special qualities, such as being female, human, and willing to return your calls.

Early on in dating, should you find yourself brimming with emotion and unable to hold back, "I love bacon!" is a safer thing to blurt out. When somebody says that, even on the first or second date, nobody suspects he's just hoping to use bacon to patch some gaping emotional void. This is probably why, no matter how soon or how fiercely you express your love for bacon, bacon will never respond by running away. To be fair, bacon also lacks feet.

Early on, 'I love bacon!' is a safer thing to blurt out.

The "I love you" a woman does want to hear is the one that's shorthand for "I'd like to be the one who's there for you when you can't quite get the Velcro to close on your adult diaper" — or that at least indicates a desire to point the relationship in that direction and see how it goes. This is not a conclusion you hop to in a handful of dates. It comes out of feeling that who the woman is resonates with who you are and what you care most about, and takes seeing her less-than-lovable sides and deciding that the downsides aren't big and hairy enough to cancel out the upsides.

As for your stumbles in the "three-little-words" zone, if you've told a woman you love her and gotten an "insulting" response, could it be because you scribbled it on a dollar bill and tucked it into her G-string? Being into a woman isn't enough. First, she has to be together enough to be open to being loved. And, yes, there actually has to be a relationship between you — one developed enough and mutual enough that even if her response to "I love you" isn't "I love you, too," at least it won't be "Sorry ... have we met?"

Her suction cup runneth over

My girlfriend of two years is the bomb but is becoming a little needy. We live together and both have office jobs, and I'm cool not talking to her until I get home, but she'll text me several times a day. If I don't respond, she texts me a sad face or some statement about how busy I must be. If I'm hanging with friends in the evening, she gets upset if I don't call her at least once. I really love her but feel indulging her need for more contact will only cause her to be more demanding. — Tugged On

Affection is not a gateway drug. Texting your girlfriend a few extra "luv u babe"s or "thinkn of u"s during the workweek isn't the first step to carrying her everywhere with you in a giant BabyBjorn. It might even help her stop treating that device in your pocket like an *Angry Birds*-enabled wireless leash. Consider "the dependency paradox," researcher Dr. Brooke C. Feeney's finding that, in a committed relationship, the more a person felt they could count on their partner to be responsive to their calls for comforting and support, the more autonomous and self-sufficient the person would be.

Ask your girlfriend to try a month-long experiment in managing your mismatched need for closeness: You'll commit to giving her more frequent verbal reassurance that you love her and are there for her and to dashing off a few sweet texts to her at slow points during your workday. She, in turn, needs to respect some boundaries, meaning not going all funeralface when you don't respond to every workday text and not expecting to hear from you when you're out with your friends unless you end the evening in a ditch or in jail. After 30 days, take stock. I'm guessing you'll find your girlfriend feeling — and acting — much less like the sort of woman who's about two unreturned texts from sobbing to a packed restaurant, "He's decided to take a break from the relationship!" (Translation: "He's in the men's room.")

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle To Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

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Complete the grid so that every row, column, diagonal and 3x3 box contain the numbers 1 to 9. Use logic to define the answers. Answers on page 62

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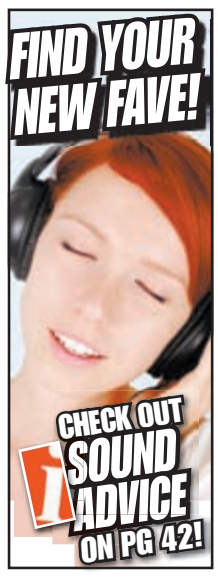
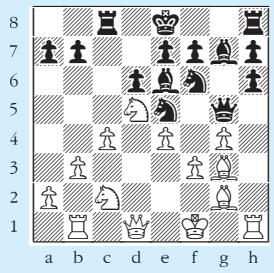


Brainiac Alert!

CHESS QUIZ



WHITE HAS A CRUSHER
Hint: Win Black's queen.

For puzzle answers, see page 62

independent

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THE LOGIC PUZZLE THAT MAKES YOU SMARTER.

EASY

12×	3+		4
	2−		3+
2	1−		
2÷		1−	

CHALLENGING

30×			6×		4
3	5+		50×		2÷
3−	4−	48×	1		
				5−	
8+	11+		11+	10×	
				4	

Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 62

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RULES

1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

FreeWillAstrology

By Rob Brezsny

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Poet Jacob Nibengenesabe was a member of the Swampy Cree, a First Nation tribe in Canada. He wrote shamanic poems from the point of view of a magical trickster who could change himself into various creatures. In one poem, the shapeshifter talked about how important it is to be definite about what he wanted. "There was a storm once," he said. "That's when I wished myself / to be a turtle / but I meant on land! / The one that carries a hard tent / on his back. / I didn't want to be floating!" By the end of the poem, the shapeshifter concluded, "I've got to wish things exactly! / That's the way it is / from now on." I hope that will be the way it is from now on for you, too, Aquarius. Visualize your desires in intricate, exact detail. For example, if you want to be a bird for a while, specify what kind.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): *Wageni ni baraka* is a Swahili proverb that means "guests are a blessing." That's not always true, of course. Sometimes guests can be a boring inconvenience or a messy burden. But for you in the coming weeks, Aries, I'm guessing the proverb will be 98 percent correct. The souls who come calling are likely to bestow unusually fine benefits. They may provide useful clues or missing links you've been searching for. They might inspire you to see things about yourself that you really need to know, and they might even give you shiny new playthings. Open your mind and heart to the unexpected blessings.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "I feel my fate in what I cannot fear," said Theodore Roethke in his poem "The Waking." I invite you to try out that perspective, Taurus. In other words, learn more about your destiny by doing what makes you feel brave. Head in the direction of adventures that clear your mind of its clutter and mobilize your gutsy brilliance. Put your trust in dreams that inspire you to sweep aside distracting worries.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's the First Annual Blemish Appreciation Week — for Geminis only. One of the best ways to observe this holiday is to not just tolerate the flaws and foibles of other people, but to also understand them and forgive them. Another excellent way to celebrate is to do the same for your own flaws and foibles: Applaud them for the interesting trouble they've caused and the rousing lessons they've taught. I may be joking a little about this, but I'm mostly serious. Be creative and uninhibited as you have fun with the human imperfections that normally drive you crazy.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): When I turn my psychic vision in your direction, I see scenes of heavy rain and rising water, maybe even a flood. I'm pretty sure this has a metaphorical rather than literal significance. It probably means you will be inundated with more feelings than you've experienced in a while. Not bad or out-of-control feelings; just deep and enigmatic and brimming with nuance. How to respond? First, announce to the universe that you will be glad and grateful to accept this deluge. Second, go with the flow, not against it. Third, promise yourself not to come to premature conclusions about the meaning of these feelings; let them evolve.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): "I want to know more about you" may be the most potent sentence you can utter in the coming week. If spoken with sincere curiosity, it will awaken dormant synergies. It will disarm people who might otherwise become adversaries. It will make you smarter and work as a magic spell that gives you access to useful information you wouldn't be able to crack open with any other method. To begin the process of imbuing your subconscious mind with its incantatory power, say "I want to know more about you" aloud 10 times right now.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): My hotel was nice but the neighborhood where it was located seemed sketchy. As I returned to my room after a jaunt to the convenience store, I received inquiries from two colorfully dressed hookers whose sales pitches were enticingly lyrical. I also passed a lively man who proposed that I purchase some of his top-grade meth, crack, or heroin. I thanked them all for their thoughtful invitations but said I wasn't in the mood. Then I slipped back into my hotel room to dine on my strawberry smoothie and blueberry muffin as I watched HBO. My experience could have something in common with your immediate future, Virgo. I suspect you may be tempted with offers that seem exotic and adventurous but are not really that good for you. Stick to the healthy basics, please.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A West Coast DJ named Shakti Bliss wrote a remarkable status update on her Facebook page. Here's an edited excerpt: "In the past 24 hours, I did yoga in a bathtub, hauled furniture by myself in the rain, got expert dating advice from an 11-year-old, learned the lindy hop, saw a rainbow over the ocean, had thrift store clothes stolen out of my car by a homeless man, made a magic protection amulet out of a piece of cardboard, was fed quinoa soup by the buffest 50-year-old South African woman I've ever met, bowed to a room full of applause, and watched two of my favorite men slow dance together to Josephine Baker singing in French." I suspect that you Libras will be having days like that in the coming week: packed with poetic adventures. Are you ready to handle more than the usual amount of stimulation and excitement?

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Thomas Jefferson, third President of the United States, called himself a Christian. But he also acknowledged that there weren't any other Christians like him. He said he belonged to a sect consisting of one person — himself. While he admired the teachings of Jesus Christ, he had no use for the supernatural aspects of the stories told in the New Testament. So he created his own version of the Bible, using only those parts he agreed with. Now would be an excellent time for you to be inspired by Jefferson's approach, Scorpio. Is there a set of ideas that appeals to you in some ways but not in others? Tailor it to your own special needs. Make it your own. Become a sect of one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "Everyone is a damn fool for at least five minutes every day," said writer Elbert Hubbard. "Wisdom consists in not exceeding the limit." Judging from my personal experience, I'd say that five minutes is a lowball figure. My own daily rate is rarely less than half an hour. But the good news as far as you're concerned, Sagittarius, is that in the coming weeks you might have many days when you're not a damn fool for even five seconds. In fact, you may break your all-time records for levels of wild, pure wisdom. Make constructive use of your enhanced intelligence!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): "Most humans have an absolute and infinite capacity for taking things for granted," said Aldous Huxley. If that's true, Capricorn, it's important that you NOT act like a normal human in the next few weeks. Taking things for granted would be a laziness you can't afford to indulge. In fact, I think you should renew your passion for and commitment to all your familiar pleasures and fundamental supports. Are you fully aware of the everyday miracles that allow you to thrive? Express your appreciation for the sources that nourish you so reliably.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): As you sleep, you have at least a thousand dreams every year. But if you're typical, you may recall only a few of them. Doesn't that bother you? To be so ignorant of the stories your subconscious mind works so hard to craft? To be out of touch with what the Iroquois call "the secret wishes of your soul"? Now is an excellent time to develop a stronger relationship with your dreams, Pisces. It's high time to explore the deeper strata of your life's big mysteries.

HOMEWORK: Talk about how you infused your spiritual path with eros and humor. Go to freewillastrology.com; click on "Email Rob."

Go to **RealAstrology.com** to check out Rob Brezsny's **EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES** and **DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES**. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at **1-877-873-4888** or 1-900-950-7700.

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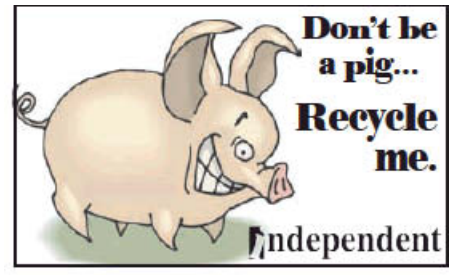

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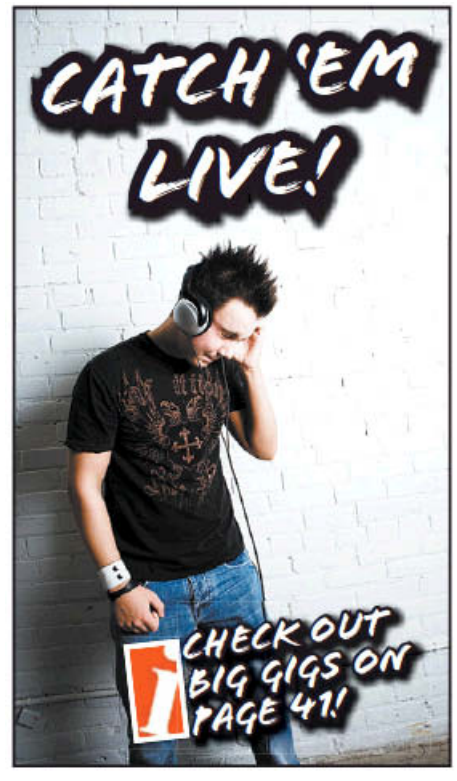

CHECK OUT BIG GIGS ON PAGE 41!

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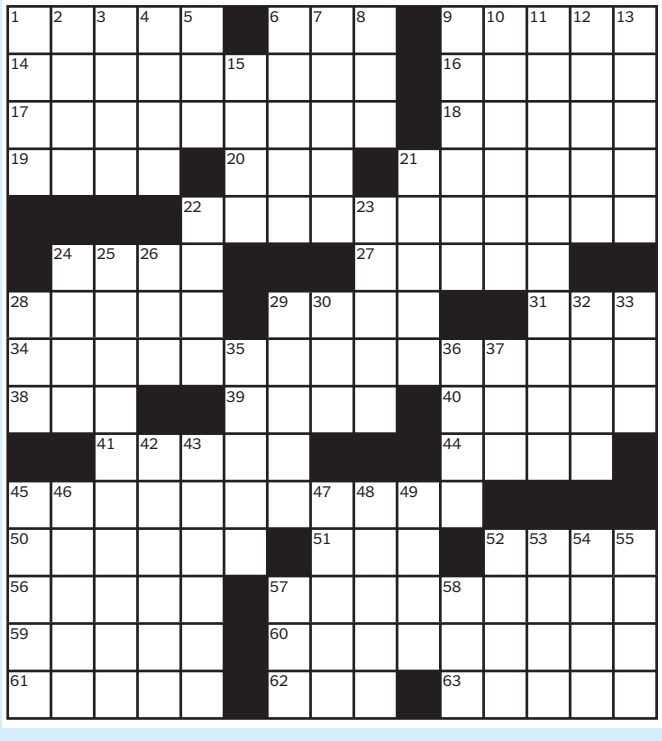
4925 Turquoise Cr.
$425,000
Walkout rancher on 1/2 acre lot. 4219 sq ft. 4 beds w/ 2 master suites. 3 baths. Den. 3-car heated garage & 24x24 heated shop w/ overhead doors. Granite tile & maple kitchen. Marble entry. Radiant hot water heat. A/C. Trex deck & patio. Front courtyard. 3 beds & laundry on main level. Lofted office. Sunroom. RV parking. 3 jetted tubs. Stucco w/ tile roof. MLS# 751244

124 Stargate Hts.
$895,000
Stunning custom log home on 35 acres in gated mtn community in Florissant. 6374 sq ft plus 1240 sq ft guest house w/ separate entrance over 3-car garage. Ranch floor plan w/ mostly unfinished basmt & lofted family room. Total privacy & 360 views in every direction. Huge log beams. Walls of windows. 4 decks. Pines, Aspen, meadows, & rock formations. MLS# 711486



The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

1 Hair-raising
6 Secretive org.
9 Cause of everything going up?
14 Hip
16 Range
17 Gamer's midday meal?
18 Quick online message
19 Spot
20 Dancer/choreographer Michio
21 Villains in the "28-Down" films, e.g.
22 Working hours for director Shyamalan?
24 Fourth-largest city in the Americas
27 Use, as dishes
28 Nasal spray brand
29 Restaurant's after-dinner selection
31 Red wing?
34 N.Y.C. subway line in one's imagination?
38 Atomic
39 Fishes or cuts bait, say
40 They take a beating
41 Centipede creator
44 Stops in the country
45 Bozo in a big Mercedes?
50 Peppermint ___
51 Hearth's content
52 End of many company names
56 Santa ___
57 With 63-Across, extra holiday pay … or what's in 17-, 22-, 34- and 45-Across?
59 Noodle dish
60 Upper
61 Some hard-to-wrap presents
62 Starting O, maybe
63 See 57-Across

DOWN

1 Old German duchy name
2 Team supposedly cursed by a billy goat
3 Rent-___
4 Classic theater name
5 Actor Brynner
6 "Pretty, pretty please?"
7 Sporting a fake nose and glasses, maybe
8 Sporting figure: Abbr.
9 Discriminatory, in a way
10 Spanish spread
11 Proof positive
12 Lacking
13 Cloud producer, for short
15 Total
21 Narc's discovery
22 Conservative skirt
23 Early races
24 Diet, commercially
25 As it happens
26 "Give ___ buzz"
28 See 21-Across
29 The weather, commonly
30 Newt, once
32 ___ law
33 Liq. measures
35 Like 36-Down, e.g.
36 Frigg's husband
37 It may fill a niche
42 Inked up
43 Japanese or Javanese
45 Trades one-twos, say
46 Ear part
47 "Chicago Hope" Emmy winner
48 Umpire of Hamlet's fencing match with Laertes
49 Impulse
52 French town in '44 news
53 Gulf land
54 Part of a sitcom sign-off
55 Big "birds" of old
57 Ill. hours
58 Fill-in

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 62

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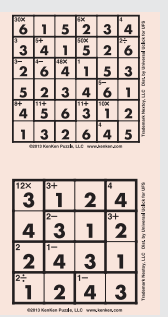
9	4	1	2	3	7	6	5	8
2	3	6	5	1	8	9	7	4
8	5	7	6	9	4	2	1	3
3	2	4	8	5	6	1	9	7
7	6	8	9	4	1	3	2	5
1	9	5	3	7	2	4	8	6
6	7	9	1	8	3	5	4	2
4	1	3	7	2	5	8	6	9
5	8	2	4	6	9	7	3	1

KENKEN



Crossword

S	C	A	R	Y	■	C	I	A	■	A	R	S	O	N
A	U	C	O	U	R	A	N	T	■	G	A	M	U	T
X	B	O	X	L	U	N	C	H	■	E	N	O	T	E
E	S	P	Y	■	I	T	O	■	S	I	C	K	O	S
■	■	■	M	N	I	G	H	T	S	H	I	F	T	■
■	L	I	M	A	■	■	■	E	A	T	O	N	■	■
S	I	N	E	X	■	T	E	A	S	■	■	G	O	P
A	T	R	A	I	N	O	F	T	H	O	U	G	H	T
W	E	E	■	■	O	P	T	S	■	D	R	U	M	S
■	■	A	T	A	R	I	■	■	■	I	N	N	S	■
S	C	L	A	S	S	C	L	O	W	N	■	■	■	■
P	A	T	T	I	E	■	A	S	H	■	S	O	N	S
A	N	I	T	A	■	C	H	R	I	S	T	M	A	S
R	A	M	E	N	■	S	T	I	M	U	L	A	N	T
S	L	E	D	S	■	T	I	C	■	B	O	N	U	S

CHESS QUIZ

From page 59:
1. Bh4! Qg6 2. Nf4! [adapted, Kasimdzhanov-Petrosian '12].

EndZone

By Ralph Routon

Happy days for MWC

In the chaotic, money-driven world of major-college athletics, the Mountain West Conference always had seemed to be stuck in the middle class — one elusive opportunity away from achieving its goal of sustained, elite-level national credibility.

As other leagues merged into 12-team monsters, the Mountain West stayed smaller. Then a few years ago, when Texas and Oklahoma appeared on the verge of leading an exodus from the Big 12 to what was then the Pacific 10, the Mountain West looked close to hitting the jackpot by perhaps merging with such well-known Big 12 members as Kansas, Kansas State, Iowa State and Baylor.

That didn't happen, obviously. Texas and Oklahoma chose to hold the Big 12 together, even after Nebraska (Big Ten) and Colorado (Pac-12) bolted. Utah and Brigham Young left the Mountain West, and more scrambling ensued. Boise State came aboard, but Texas Christian jumped to the Big East — then reneged and joined the Big 12.

SPORTS SHOT

Super pick Word has it that most "smart money" in Las Vegas is going to Baltimore, taking the spread of 3 to 4 points.

Midseason surge With every road win, the Denver Nuggets look more capable of making noise in the playoffs.

Avs' weapon Never hurts to have superior goaltending, and Colorado is looking good with Semyon Varlamov.

No more options? Looks like the Colorado Rockies, after failing to wrap up a trade with Atlanta for a starting pitcher, won't be able to upgrade their staff before spring training.

Amid that confusion, the Mountain West's Denver-based TV network shut down, ending what had been the league's best vehicle for consistent exposure. Fresno State, Hawaii and Nevada came to the Mountain West, but then Boise State and San Diego State jumped in bed with the Big East. So the MWC added San Jose State and Utah State, which kept the conference afloat.

But now, with the Big East about as stable as Congress, Boise State and San Diego State have become prodigal children, returning to the Mountain West.

If that all sounds confusing, it should. But the end result is better than the Mountain West could have dreamed: 12 members starting this fall, enough for a football championship game and an even stronger basketball tournament, and with much better appeal for national networks.

Not only that, but the conference (which has had its offices in Colorado Springs since forming in 1999) has moved into new headquarters off InterQuest Parkway and Interstate 25 — quite appropriately, on New Allegiance Drive.

And for those who were concerned about how the football divisions might be determined, we already know that answer as well. And it's yet another positive.

The first rumors turned out to be dead-on, with the divisional split by time zones. In the Mountain, Air Force joins Colorado State, Wyoming, New Mexico, Utah State and Boise State. The Pacific (to be called the West) will have San Diego State, Nevada, Nevada-Las Vegas, San Jose State, Fresno State and Hawaii.

Some might argue differently, but from this view, the Mountain will be tougher in football — which might be an ominous sign for Air Force. Boise State is a proven powerhouse; Utah State just had a 10-win season and a bowl victory with a young team; New Mexico and Colorado State are on the rise with solid head coaches; Wyoming is coming off a disappointing year but with lots of key talent returning. Meanwhile Air Force, despite having made it to bowls six consecutive years, enters retooling mode.

Regardless, the league certainly has separated itself now from others in the so-called second tier of big-time college football, ahead of Conference USA, the Mid-American Conference, Sun Belt and the fast-eroding Big East.

As for men's basketball, the Mountain West didn't have to grow. It already ranks among the top handful of Division I leagues, perhaps meaning five NCAA Tournament berths this year with no drop-off in sight.

Clearly, the CBS Sports Network wants to capitalize, and it can provide plenty of national exposure in football and basketball, not to mention the MWC title football game. Who knows, we might see a rebirth of the cable-TV network that did such an admirable job of marketing the entire league. With the San Diego market salvaged, along with Utah State bringing that state back into play and San Jose State opening the door to the Bay Area, who knows?

Then someday, expanded national football playoffs should provide that next not-so-elusive opportunity.

So if you're a follower of the Mountain West as a whole, you've probably never felt better. But if your loyalty stops at Air Force, don't feel too giddy.

— routon@csindy.com

RangerRich

By Rich Tosches

Our county vs. Obama

El Paso County Commissioner **Betty Beedy**, uh, I mean **Peggy Littleton**, who in 2011 delivered a public rant about President **Barack Obama**, claiming he was secretly creating Muslim schools to teach our kids to hate America, is now lecturing us on constitutional law.

This is like **Douglas Bruce** lecturing us on social skills. The gardener offering financial-portfolio advice. An Amish guy replacing the Fusion Drive in our computers. A homeless guy conducting a real estate seminar. Mayor **Steve Bach** laying out his "10 Steps to Being a Decent Human Being."

Betty Beedy was an El Paso County commissioner from 1996 to 2000, a term highlighted by an appearance on a national talk show during which she — while being interviewed by African-American **Star Jones** — referred to Caucasians as "normal, white Americans."

Sure made a person proud to live in El Paso County.

And now we have Peggy, who has a degree of some kind from a college that changed its name after she graduated. (Coincidence? Perhaps.) She also home-schooled her three kids, passing her great social and intellectual views to another generation while guaranteeing their academic work would not be interrupted by stupid things like sports or proms. Or friends.

They find time to cash their large paychecks.

Oh, and Peggy loves guns. All kinds of guns. Handguns. Shotguns. Assault guns. Caulking guns. Somehow, between that gun-enthusiast thing and givin' her kids that schoolin' stuff right thar at the kitchen table, she became an expert on constitutional law.

Which is more than you can say for that dimwitted Obama guy we elected president, who graduated from Harvard Law School (which has *not* changed its name) and then taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School for 12 years.

Eee-yup. When it comes to knowing the law of the land, never you mind that Kenyan fella. I'm goin' with Miss Peggy. (My apologies to the Muppets, and I hereby vow not to mention them again.) Anyway, led by Miss Peggy, here's what our Mensa-worthy commissioners did last week, from a front-page story in the *Denver Post*: "El Paso County's commissioners won't enforce laws — federal or state — that infringe on the Second Amendment right to bear arms and are prepared to face any financial consequences of not following federal law."

Our county roads look like Fort Carson used them for artillery targets. Fire and flood mitigation plans along Ute Pass in the wake of the Waldo Canyon Fire have been lost in backroom politics. No solutions are in sight for the crime-ridden No Man's Land area along Colorado Avenue on the west side. In summary, our county commissioners do a whole lot of nothing. Oops. I'm sorry. They find time for one thing: getting to the bank to cash their large county paychecks.

But last week, Miss Peggy, along with her board colleagues, decided El Paso County should no longer be part of the United States. We're now the People's Republic of Losers. Let's sing our new anthem: "My country, 'tis of thee. Only kid in my class was me..."

From the *Post*: "The five-member board may be the first elected panel in Colorado to pass a resolution challenging President Barack Obama's 23 executive orders designed to crack down on gun violence ..." (Although commissioners in Weld County are working on a resolution of their own.)

From Miss Peggy: "We're being proactive and pre-emptive. We're putting people on notice, whether it's the state Legislature or at the federal level."

Among the non-ignorant, the commissioners' resolution is a joke.

"They don't get to decide," said Colorado Attorney General **John Suthers** to the *Post*. (Suthers, by the way, is a staunch Republican, but knows stupid when he sees it.) "The Supreme Court gets to decide the parameters of Second Amendment rights."

Makes you want to stop home-schooling your kids and enroll them in one of Obama's secret Muslim schools.

***Rich Tosches (rangerrich@csindy.com) also writes a Sunday column in the* Denver Post.**

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